

THE LITERARY GAZETTE

AND
Journal of the Belles Lettres, Science, and Art.

No. 1857.

LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 1852.

Price Fourpence.
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CONTENTS.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES:—	PAGE
Autobiography of William Jerdan, Vol. II	635
Dr. Thomson's 'Western Himalaya and Tibet'	637
Dr. Knox's 'Manual of Artistic Anatomy'	639
Paul's 'Life of King Alfred'	639
Cruikshank's 'Betting-Book'	640
Willich's 'Popular Tables'	640
Thomson's 'Caledonia Romana'	641
Calton's 'Annals and Legends of Calais'	641
Cooley's 'Inner Africa Laid Open'	641
SUMMARY:—	
New Edition of Murray's Handbooks	641
Rogue's Guide-book to Switzerland and Savoy	641
'Postulates and Data'	641
Saunders's 'Mesmeric Guide for Family Use'	641
Olivier's Register of Contested Elections	641
Mrs. Challice's 'Laurel and Palm'	641
Murray's 'Hints to Travellers in Portugal'	641
Lord Jocelyn's Speech on the Amcours of Scinde	641
List of New Books	641
ARTICLES:—	
Science, Art, and Labour	642
Scientific Balloon Ascent	642
Archæological Congress	642
TOPICS OF THE WEEK:—	
The City Company of Girdlers	643
The Timber in Epping Forest	643
'Crania Britannica'	643
American Industrial Exhibition	643
Universal Language	643
Death of the Duke of Hamilton	644
Telegraphic Distribution of Greenwich Time	644
The Electric Telegraph in India	644
Death of Mr. Joseph Fletcher	644
Exhibition of Scandinavian Manufactures	644
Magnetism and the Cholera	644
Manchester Free Public Library	644
Geological Society of France	644
Garibaldi	644
Madame Pfeiffer	644
FINE ARTS:—	
Blanc's History of the Painters of All Nations	644
Classes and Lectures at Marlborough House	645
Discovery of a Titian	645
Statue to Lesueur	645
MUSIC:—	
Royal Italian Opera—'Pietro il Grande'	645
Paris Operas	646
THEATRE:—	
Amateur Performances for the Guild of Literature	646
Gratuitous Performances at the Paris Theatres	646
New Vaudeville—'Les Avocats'	646
Death of M. Ahlberg	646
FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE:—	
Paris	646

CRYSTAL PALACE, 1853.—To EXHIBITORS.—Exhibitors desirous of obtaining space for the Exhibition of objects included in the Four Classes of Raw Materials, Manufactures, Machinery, and the Fine Arts, are informed that the Directors have reserved a limited amount of space available for that purpose, and that they will be ready to allot the same on the first of November, 1853. Applications for space, specifying the amount required, will be received by Mr. BELSHAW, at the Office, 3, Adelaide Place, London Bridge, 10th August, 1852. By order, GEORGE GROVE, Secretary.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION for the ADVANCEMENT of SCIENCE.—The NEXT MEETING will be held at BELFAST, under the Presidency of Colonel EDWARD SABINE, R.A., Treasurer and V.P. of the Royal Society; and will commence on WEDNESDAY, the 1st of September, 1852. JOHN TAYLOR, F.R.S., General Treasurer, 6, Queen Street Place, Upper Thames Street, London.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.—On Sunday, Aug. 29th, an EXCURSION TRAIN will leave Paddington at Half-past Seven o'clock, for Chepstow, calling at Cirencester, Stroud, Gloucester, and Cheltenham, and will return from Chepstow the same evening at Half-past Six o'clock, calling at the same stations. Fares there and back in closed carriages:—To Cirencester or Stroud 9s. 5s. To Gloucester or Cheltenham 10s. 6s. To Chepstow 11s. 7s. Tickets, which are only available for the Excursion Train, may be obtained previously at 27, King Street, Cheapside; 269, Strand, and at the Paddington Station. Passengers having luggage can only be conveyed at the ordinary fares.

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OUTLINE OF PERFORMANCES.

TUESDAY MORNING—(Oratorio)—Elijah Mendelssohn.
WEDNESDAY MORNING—(Oratorio)—Christus, a } Mendelssohn.
Posthumous Work
Motett Dr. Wesley.
Oratorio—Creation Haydn.
THURSDAY MORNING—(Oratorio)—Messiah Handel.
FRIDAY MORNING—(Oratorio)—Samson Handel.
TUESDAY EVENING—GRAND CONCERT, comprising—
Overture—(Jessonda) Spohr.
Grand Finale—(Mose in Egitto) Rossini.
Overture—(Guillaume Tell) Rossini.
Walpurgis Night Mendelssohn.
Selections from Operas, &c.

WEDNESDAY EVENING—GRAND CONCERT, comprising—
Jupiter Symphony Mozart.
Overture—(Der Freyschutz) Weber.
Finale—(Lorely) Mendelssohn.
Selections from Les Huguenots, &c.

THURSDAY EVENING—GRAND CONCERT, comprising—
Great Coral Symphony Beethoven.
Overture—(Zampa) Herold.
Selections from Le Prophète, &c.
Greek March and Chorus—(Siege of Corinth) Rossini.

FRIDAY EVENING—A FULL DRESS BALL.

SHAKESPEARE.—Persons wishing for information respecting the new monograph illustrated edition of Shakespeare, in twenty folio volumes, the impression of which will be strictly limited, will please to apply (by letter only) to J. O. Halliwell, Esq., Avenue Lodge, Brixton Hill, Surrey.

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AERONOMIC, 1852.

Report of the Preliminary Proceedings will be issued early next week.

LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 1852.

REVIEWS.

The Autobiography of William Jerdan.
Vol. II. Hall, Virtue & Co.

ANOTHER volume of inconsistent grumbling, unjustifiable invective, and puerile complaint! Volume II. of Mr. Jerdan's 'Memoirs,' like the volume that preceded it, is a miserable but unauthorized whining over the literary profession, relieved by scarcely a page of biography or original composition that an indifferent reader will care to peruse. We entreat Mr. Jerdan, for his own sake, to desist from this unmanly and unnecessary wailing. We tell him again, and in all sincerity and good will, that he is not the man from whom the public is anxious to be informed whether the literary profession is one that may be followed with hope of substantial reward, or whether it is a trade from which scavengers and street-sweepers with literary aspirations would do well to shrink. If the plain truth must be spoken, Mr. Jerdan does not come into court with clean hands. Men who desire to be listened to as authorities must produce vouchers for their competency; and Mr. Jerdan can bring no such attestations. It may be, as he says, that let a man practise self-denial, prudence, moderation, and every other humble but wholesome virtue as actively as he may, he shall find after all no return for labour as a literary man; still *his* eternal and querulous repetition of the statement shall not go one inch in the way of conviction, because he, at least, has never once thought, from the commencement of his career until the present moment, of exercising any one of the virtues in question. Mr. Jerdan is quite in a position to show, that if a man is reckless, improvident, wilfully extravagant, neglectful of social obligations, and superior to moral restraints, he will in all probability end his days in disappointment, bitterness, poverty, and self-reproach; but he is not to be listened to for a moment, when he reiterates the monstrous assertion, that let a man strive as he will, and bring what powers he may to help him in his fight, to him victory is impossible, and satisfaction altogether out of the question.

We have little pleasure in dwelling upon this point; but Mr. Jerdan leaves us no alternative. We vindicated the literary profession against his aspersions on the appearance of his first volume, and he answers our vindication by idle sneers and audacious repetition of his mis-statements. The reader shall presently judge for himself whether, even upon Mr. Jerdan's own showing, he has any ground of complaint against literature, either as regards fame, respectability, or reward; as the reader must also decide, when Mr. Jerdan has closed his story, whether the literary profession has suffered more from its association with Mr. Jerdan than Mr. Jerdan has suffered from his connexion with it. Meanwhile, in order to put an end to a discussion which, although not without interest to the public, ought not to intrude itself into every third page of Mr. Jerdan's narrative, we strongly urge upon that gentleman the propriety of stating, once for all, whether, during any one year of his life, he has steadily laboured for his bread, and having been rewarded for his pains, *spent* less than the sum he has received for his exertions. If he tells the truth, he will acknowledge that through-

out his life, whatever may have been the amount of his annual receipts, they have invariably fallen short of the sum of his annual expenditure; and we fearlessly tell him, that had he been born a partner in the house of Rothschild, and pursued the same reckless, inconsiderate, and flagitious course, he would to-day have had to utter the same useless lamentations that disfigure his pages, lamentations that point him out rather as an unhappy example to be avoided, than as a wise prophet to be believed in and followed.

We have been much struck by the instances given by Mr. Jerdan in his two volumes, of men, not attached to the literary profession, who by dint of great self-government, perseverance, and economical use of money and time, have worked their way to the competency and respect denied to the less fortunate writer who calls our attention to their honourable achievements. In the volume now before us, Mr. Jerdan is eloquent in praise of the Trotters, Alexander, John, and Coutts, who, as he states for our information and instruction, were all sent by their parents to London from the north, in order to fight their way upward, and to seek the good fortune which, by one and the same means, one and all finally obtained. The three brothers, we learn, when they came to London, lodged in the Strand, very near to Coutts's banking-house, in which firm, by the way, one of them in course of time became a leading partner. They had no better accommodation than their bed-rooms afforded, and in those humble apartments they lived as became struggling men with no means save those which daily industry furnished. "They were connected," Mr. Jerdan writes, "with some of the nobility of Scotland, and occasionally on Sundays they received visits from their aristocratical relations." John Trotter once said to Mr. Jerdan that he and his brothers were always in dread of the noble visitors in question. "Perhaps we were, or had just done, feeding, and everything was in confusion. But we were active fellows, and before you could cry 'Jack Robinson,' the firkin or pan of butter, and the barrel or peck of oatmeal, or the kipper salmon, or the jam or jelly, or shortbread, was shoved under the beds with wonderful rapidity; and before our visitors got to the top of the stairs, everything was as snug and tidy as if half-a-dozen housemaids had been employed." It is really astonishing that it never occurs to Mr. Jerdan that by such practices as these—practices involving self-sacrifice and self-government—men are accustomed slowly to ascend the steps that lead to competency and wealth, irrespectively of the particular professions to which they are attached, and that literary men are able to provide for themselves, by similar prudent courses, as well as any other class. Did Mr. Jerdan, we should like to know, dream of living in a bed-room, and of quietly enjoying his oatmeal there at any one time of his varied career? When he first took to the quill, according to his own confession, he was not badly remunerated. If he earned 200*l.* a year, did he prudently set aside 100*l.* for an evil day? When he earned 500*l.* a year, did he put by 50*l.*? When he realised upwards of 1000*l.* per annum—and his connexion with this journal alone brought him for years more than that amount—did he not contrive desperately to spend very much more? Has he ever been out of debt? Has he from his youth done anything else but forestalled his income, and lived beyond it, and incurred liabilities, which he must have known there

would be at least great difficulty in discharging under the most prosperous circumstances, and no hope at all of meeting in the event of accident? When his income has not been sufficient to pay for the ordinary necessities of a man of family, has he not wantonly and madly persisted in the indulgence of gross sensual luxuries? We will not be deterred, by the charge of entering into personal and private matters, from boldly grappling with the question which Mr. Jerdan has forced us to consider. This gentleman has thought fit to publish his life, and to accuse the literary profession of having rendered him a poor man, whereas he might have been rich had he taken to the profession of a Pollock or to the trade of a Trotter. We say that Mr. Jerdan would have been defeated in any arena, for the elements of success were wholly wanting in his unsteady composition. We know what literature is, and how she pays her votaries. All authors are not born to the triumphs of a Dickens, and few win the well-merited rewards of a Macaulay: but compare the sums paid now for literary services, with payments made in past times, and it will be impossible to say that intelligence, industry, and prudent habits, are altogether thrown away on a pursuit which, in addition to its pecuniary rewards, possesses charms for which no other calling in life can find a parallel. We could name many authors who, if they had exercised a discretion and a moderation, which no man in any path of life can renounce and be happy, during their arduous battle, might have won competency long before the close of their days, and left something for their offspring to build upon at the end of them. Mr. Jerdan has also authors to quote in confirmation of his own view of the subject; but if we may judge from the names of the witnesses submitted, his case will not bear a very severe examination. He tells us that the late Mr. Moir (Blackwood's 'Delta'), writing to him from Edinburgh, thanked God, seeing what he had seen in Galt, in Hogg, and in Hood, that he himself in early life had resolution enough to make poetry his crutch and not his staff. We think with Mr. Moir that he had reason to 'thank God.' He had been educated for the medical profession, and he would have betrayed downright insanity had he deserted that very legitimate occupation in order to make a fortune by the sale of poetry which, whatever may be its merit, is certainly not distinguished by the stamp of the highest genius. Mr. Moir made a respectable income by physic, and acquired a sufficiently respectable reputation at the same time by his verses, and therein displayed an amount of good sense which it is too late to recommend to Mr. Jerdan's attention, but which we cannot too strongly urge upon the notice of all the readers of Mr. Jerdan's biography. Mr. Moir's wise resolution has, however, nothing to do with the cases of Galt and Hood. If we remember rightly, Galt's misfortunes were attributable less to literature than to commerce; not so much to public neglect at home as to personal failure in pecuniary speculations abroad. And the case of poor Tom Hood is, alas! only too like that of Mr. Jerdan himself. Who that knew Hood, his generous heart, his pure mind, and his unselfish soul, but loved the man! Who that saw, during the last few months of his life, his genius soaring higher and penetrating deeper than it had ever ventured before, but honoured the fine intellect, cognizant of glory too late, and awakened

to the consciousness of power at the very moment of utter and everlasting impotency! Admiration of the man and appreciation of his genius is, however, one thing. A plain statement of plain facts is another; and truth compels the declaration that to himself, and to himself alone, is mainly attributable those misfortunes of Hood which we are ignorantly desired to lay at the door of his profession. For years Thomas Hood received—we had it from his own lips—nearly a thousand pounds per annum for his 'Comic Annual' alone. His family was not large, for he had only two children, and his expenditure was not necessarily great. But what happened? We may be pardoned for deploring a circumstance which the gifted man himself lamented on his death-bed. Receiving a thousand a year, he spent two thousand. Having more than enough to bring up his family in decent comfort, and to make provision for them hereafter, he must needs take a fine house in the country, within easy reach of the metropolis—keep an extravagant table, and spend his substance upon strangers, whose ability to eat and drink their patrons out of house and home constitutes their sole unenviable recommendation. Hood never recovered this folly. Had he spent 500*l.* a year when he was earning 1000*l.*, he would never have known the anguish which his gentle soul finally experienced. In the time of sickness, when only 500*l.* a-year could be realised, and not always that, a double struggle was going on—the fight against past encumbrances and the fight against present deficiency. No wonder that a sensitive heart snapped under the harassing and improvident conflict.

"I am anxious," says Mr. Jerdan in the present volume, "to show the evils to which the author, the man dependent upon literature, is exposed,—the enjoyments and disappointments which await his career, the injustice and wrongs he is doomed to meet with, and the trials and troubles which attach to him only as the consequence of his pursuits." And, in truth, Mr. Jerdan's great anxiety to refer all his calamities to his profession rather than to his own extravagance and folly, leads him into the most ridiculous contradictions. Listen to his sickening groans, and you would really conclude that he had nothing to tell you but the story of a wretch starving in a garret, nibbling at a goose quill, unblessed with a friend, not recognised by a solitary acquaintance. Believe nothing of the kind! Take Mr. Jerdan's account of himself from his own lips, and he is an object of interest and of envy at every turn of his life. In virtue of literature he has lived all his days upon the fat of the land, and been honoured by the friendship and regard of some of the greatest men of their time. Literature a profession of injustice and wrong! Where is the evidence of that fact? Literature brought Mr. Jerdan into familiar intercourse with no meaner a personage than Canning, and secured for the literary man, according to his own showing, the confidence and affection of that statesman to such an extent, indeed, that "there were few things beyond the limits of cabinet secrecy which were not freely confided to me." It was literature that won for the autobiographer the friendship of John Trotter, who, we are told, sent Mr. Jerdan in a grand equipage to the coronation of George IV., "which I was thus enabled to attend in a style which few literary gentlemen could hope to emulate." Literature made Mr. Jerdan

the bosom friend of Lord De Tabley, the owner of Tabley House, which, "with its lovely and charming mistress, its elegant refinements, unstudied and informal, its splendid collection of superb paintings, its stores of curious literary lore, its fishing, its shooting, its otter hunting, and its ceaseless round of healthful exercise and intellectual converse," constituted "an earthly paradise" to the much-injured individual to whom the use of the pen brought nothing but disappointment and wrong. "When I come to write of Drummond Castle," says Mr. Jerdan in one part of his book, "I shall have to describe some scenes of perfect human happiness in which I have been welcomed to participate there." We shall be delighted to learn what literature did for Mr. Jerdan at Drummond Castle. Whatever may have been his felicity there, the state of existence formed no exception to the general rule. Thirty years ago, literature had done so much for Mr. Jerdan that he was enabled "to enlarge his circle of acquaintance with the *élite* of society; and from mere introductory acquaintances, to found intimate attachments which lasted for many years." Lord Munster was his steadfast ally whilst he lived. The present Marquis of Normanby dined familiarly at his table. Sir Francis Freeing was his devoted servant. What did the literary man want more? One evening—literature having made Mr. Jerdan the intimate friend of Mr. William Lamb, afterwards Lord Melbourne—the autobiographer was at a party given by Lady Caroline Lamb, when the game of forfeits was introduced. We entreat the reader's attention to what follows, and to appreciate the black ingratitude of the man who could find it in his heart to denounce a profession which brought him privileges that kings might sigh for. Forfeits, we say, were introduced. In the course of the game, Mr. Jerdan, this injured, oppressed, vilified, and desolate literary man, was blindfolded, and "required to kneel upon the carpet, and *with his head bent into Lady Caroline Lamb's lap*, condemned to give such answers as he could to such questions as might be proposed to him." Fancy the enviable dog's position! Injustice and wrong forsooth! Has his ambition no bounds? Does he want to be an archangel? Sir Frederick Pollock has been a successful man, no doubt; the Trotters have all done well, but we defy them to point to one triumph comparable to this—to recal one moment in their lives when they could attribute to their professional success such an overflow of self-complacency as must have suffused the modest cheeks of William Jerdan as they buried themselves in the lap of his beautiful and exulting hostess.

And mark: literature not only enabled Mr. Jerdan to take care of himself, but furnished him with the means of largely ministering to the necessities of others. Mr. Jerdan takes great credit for the services he has been able to render to needy men. Let him have whatever merit is due to him; but let him acknowledge that his patronage and power came to him in virtue only of his literary position. He publishes a grateful letter from a lady named Begbie, whose fatherless son he was enabled to establish in consequence of his influence with the powers that were. He mentions with gratitude the opportunity that occurred to him, and of which he availed himself, to introduce a son of the poet Burns to a minister of the day, who at Mr. Jerdan's request appointed the youth to a cadetship in India, where the lad ultimately made his

fortune. Jerdan, not a literary man, would have had no credit with the minister, and young Burns might have lost the cadetship. Again, through Mr. Jerdan's intimacy with Lord Melbourne—an intimacy, be it ever remembered, due to Mr. Jerdan's literary pretensions—he was "enabled to plead the cause of the widows of my two friends, the intrepid brothers Lander, the African travellers, and to procure pensions for them both, one of which continues to be paid through my hands." Surely, whether as regards the treatment of Mr. Jerdan himself, or the attention shown to his *protégés*, the literary profession has no ground of complaint against society at large. We hear from Mr. Jerdan's lips his own account of the world's dealing with him, and what conclusion but one can we deduce from the narration?

It is true enough that the friendships of which Mr. Jerdan boasts, and the influence, upon the former possession of which he now congratulates himself, have departed, and left him in his age "naked to his enemies." But whose fault is that? A literary man may acquire friends by reason of his talents, but he can retain them for any time only in virtue of good conduct. There is such a thing as wearing out the strongest ties, and exhausting the warmest sympathies. We must not complain if, having forfeited our self-respect, we find ourselves bereft of the respect of other men. As far as Mr. Jerdan is concerned, we believe him to be in this predicament. He has wearied his well-wishers, and deliberately cut asunder his friendships. We will never believe that, having once made friends for himself, he could not have retained them, had he deemed it worth his while to do so, preferring the esteem of mankind to his own vicious indulgences. Men who make desperate plunges in this social state must not be astonished if they are allowed to sink with nothing better than the commiseration of the more prudent lookers-on. So Mr. Jerdan has sunk, and in his misery unjustifiably and uselessly upbraids an honest calling for disasters for which he alone stands culpable in the eyes of the world.

One word before we quit this portion of Mr. Jerdan's biographical labours for ever. We had hoped, having in our review of the first volume of his biography pointed out as temperately as we could, to the author as well as to the public, the obvious reasons of his failure in life, that Mr. Jerdan would have received our strictures in the spirit in which they were written, and re-considered the judgment which disappointment rather than any other feeling induced him to pass upon the literary character and profession. Mr. Jerdan declines to re-consider the subject, and thinks proper to regard our criticism as "a base personal exception" to the notices which had appeared of his work. We have certainly not read the encomiums of our fellow-critics, but be they as laudatory as they may, we owe it to ourselves to vindicate the verdict we have pronounced, and, painful as the task has been to us, and as the perusal of our remarks must be to Mr. Jerdan and his friends, we cannot regret that we have preferred the maintenance of truth and right to the natural wishes of Mr. Jerdan, and to our own ease and comfort. It is easy enough to deceive Mr. Jerdan with unblushing praise; it requires some courage and self-sacrifice to tell him aloud what many of his panegyrists may possibly think in secret.

The biographical contents of the present

volume have reference to the quarrels of Mr. Jerdan and his co-proprietor of the 'Sun' newspaper—to his separation from that journal, and to his first connexion in 1817 with the 'Literary Gazette.' Some of the early contributions to the 'Gazette' are reprinted, and not a few of the verses—the merest doggerel—might have been omitted with advantage. We shall be curious to follow Mr. Jerdan as he progresses in his story. If he dare write his "confessions"—he has indeed an instructive tale to tell. But he must dig deep down, and not be content to skim—with eye averted—the mere surface of his long and singularly-spent life.

Western Himalaya and Tibet. By Thomas Thomson, M.D., F.L.S. Reeve and Co.

TRAVELLERS who visit well-known countries, usually, when they write about their wanderings, tell their story in as many words as possible. Those who have explored unknown regions are apt to give their freshly-gathered information in too condensed a form. Dr. Thomson belongs to the latter class. His journal is a most important contribution to geographical science, containing, as it does, an ample account of the physical features of countries respecting which our knowledge has been scanty or nothing. It is a thoroughly straightforward and honest description of a series of laborious journeys, in which the results, so far as they are of intrinsic value, are fully stated, whilst the personal exertions and privations of this modest and able traveller are kept out of sight. We should have liked that more had been said about the many little incidents, the delays, impediments, and vexations that necessarily arise during such an expedition, and yet we cannot but admire the high spirit of the discoverer, who is content to rest his claim to public attention mainly, almost entirely, on the new results developed through his energy and perseverance.

More than once, in noticing works of travels, we have had occasion to censure the ignorance displayed by their authors of the ordinary facts of natural history, and to lament over the opportunities thus lost of filling up gaps in our knowledge of the indigenous productions of little-known countries. This grievous defect cannot, assuredly, be charged in any way against the work now before us. It is brim-full of original natural history observations, made by one fully equal in every respect to the task of pursuing such inquiries. We rise from the perusal of this book with as clear and vivid a conception of the vegetation and soil of Tibet as if we had been companions of the narrator.

Dr. Thomson is an officer in the service of the Hon. East India Company. The son of the illustrious and venerable chemist so lately taken away from amongst us, he has inherited a love for, and an intimate acquaintance with, science in many forms. His exploration of Tibet was performed as an official duty, one carried out in conjunction with Major Cunningham and Captain Henry Strachey, gentlemen whose names have lately been prominent before the public on account of the great services they have rendered to the development of the geography of Asia. Fortunate, indeed, is the public service that can boast of having men like these in its employment, so enthusiastic, so earnest, so undaunted, and so thoroughly instructed.

The journeys of which this work is the

detailed account were made during the years 1847 and 1848. The course taken was up the valley of the Sutlej; thence, turning off at the junction of the Piti river, following its course, crossing by the Parang Pass into the valley of the river of that name, thence by the Lanak Pass to Hanle in the valley of the Indus. The Tibetan course of the Indus was explored beyond Iskardo, which city and that of Le were visited, and are the subjects of some interesting notes. The country was examined between Iskardo and the famous valley of Kashmir, and between Le and the plains of India. The great valley of Nubra, running parallel with that of the Indus, was minutely examined, and the journey to the Karakoram Pass, in the Kouenlun mountains, for the first time accomplished by European traveller. This last expedition alone would have secured for Dr. Thomson a high place in the roll of geographical investigators.

The old and still popular notion of Tibet is that of a great mountain table-land, or series of table-lands, at the back of the Himalaya, by which mighty chain its southern boundary is made, a barrier broken through by the Indus at one extremity, and the Brahmaputra at the other, whilst its northern limit is similarly walled in by the Kouenlun chain. The country thus supposed to exist is entirely imaginary. There is no such great table-land. Nor is there, indeed, any such great continuous chain as the Himalaya itself. The line of snowy peaks running parallel to the plains of India are not so many summits of one Alpine chain, but are separated from each other by deep ravines, through which flow large and rapid rivers. Between the Indus and the plains of North-west India is a rugged and mountainous tract 150 miles broad. Kashmir is the only plain of any extent among these mountain ranges. The mountains between the Indus and the plains may be referred to two great groups, which may be respectively termed the Cis-Sutlej and Trans-Sutlej Himalayas. Tibet is the region among and of these mountains between their outer ramifications and the great chain of Kouenlun beyond the Indus. This chain separates Tibet from Yarkand and Khoten. Over this stupendous barrier there are said to be only four passes, all crossing regions of eternal snows, and two traversing enormous glaciers. The Karakoram Pass is one of these, and is 18,200 feet above the level of the sea. The visit to this extraordinary locality is thus described by Dr. Thomson:—

"On the 19th of August, leaving my tent standing, I started to visit the Karakoram pass, the limit of my journey to the northward. The country round my halting-place was open, except to the north, where a stream descended through a narrow valley from a range of hills, the highest part of which was apparently about 3000 feet above me. All the rivers had formed for themselves depressions in the platform of gravel which was spread over the plain. At first I kept on the south bank of the river close to which I had halted, but about a mile from camp I crossed a large tributary which descended from the south-west, and soon after, turning round the rocky termination of a low range of hills, entered a narrow valley which came from a little west of north-west. At the foot of the rocky point of the range were three very small huts, built against the rock as a place of shelter for travellers, in case of stormy or snowy weather; and bones of horses were here scattered about the plain in greater profusion than usual.

"I ascended this valley for about six miles: its width varied from 200 yards to about half a mile, gradually widening as I ascended. The slope was throughout gentle. An accumulation of allu-

vium frequently formed broad and gently-sloping banks, which were cut into cliffs by the river. Now and then large tracts covered with glacial boulders were passed over; and several small streams were crossed, descending from the northern mountains through narrow ravines. About eight miles from my starting-point the road left the bank of the stream, and began to ascend obliquely and gradually on the sides of the hills. The course of the valley beyond where I left it continued unaltered, sloping gently up to a large snow-bed, which covered the side of a long sloping ridge four or five miles off. After a mile, I turned suddenly to the right, and, ascending very steeply over fragments of rock for four or five hundred yards, I found myself on the top of the Karakoram pass—a rounded ridge connecting two hills which rose somewhat abruptly to the height of perhaps 1000 feet above me. The height of the pass was 18,200 feet, the boiling-point of water being 180° 8', and the temperature of the air about 50°. Towards the north, much to my disappointment, there was no distant view. On that side the descent was steep for about 500 yards; beyond which distance a small streamlet occupied the middle of a very gently sloping valley, which curved gradually to the left, and disappeared behind a stony ridge at the distance of half a mile. The hills opposite to me were very abrupt, and rose a little higher than the pass; they were quite without snow, nor was there any on the pass itself, though large patches lay on the shoulder of the hill to the right. To the south, on the opposite side of the valley which I had ascended, the mountains, which were sufficiently high to exclude entirely all view of the lofty snowy mountain seen the day before, were round-topped and covered with snow. Vegetation was entirely wanting on the top of the pass, but the loose shingle with which it was covered was unfavourable to the growth of plants, otherwise, no doubt, lichens at least would have been seen. Large ravens were circling about overhead, apparently quite unaffected by the rarity of the atmosphere, as they seemed to fly with just as much ease as at the level of the sea.

"The great extent of the modern alluvial deposit concealed in a great measure the ancient rocks. At my encampment a ridge of very hard limestone, dipping at a high angle, skirted the stream. Further up the valley a hard slate occurred, and in another place a dark blue slate, containing much iron pyrites, and crumbling rapidly when exposed to the atmosphere. Fragments of this rock were scattered over the plain in all states of decay. On the crest of the pass the rock *in situ* was limestone, showing obscure traces of fossils, but too indistinct to be determined; the shingle, which was scattered over the ridge, was chiefly a brittle black clay-slate."

Conceive a vast tract of country, the lowest valley of which is as high as the summit of the Faulhorn in Switzerland, and many of whose habitable spots are nearly as lofty as the summit of Mont Blanc, composed of prodigious mountain chains from 17,000 to 19,000 feet above the sea, with occasional peaks exceeding 22,000 feet, winding and interlacing, intersected by deep and narrow valleys—ravines on an enormous scale—with too arid a climate to support forests, or any coniferous tree except alpine junipers—covered by a sky cloudy in winter, clear and bright in summer, and a powerful sun heating the bare black rocks, whilst the air is rent by winds of fearful violence—and we can form a picture of Western Tibet, the region explored by Dr. Thomson.

There are many features in this extraordinary country which can only be explained by the supposition of a considerable difference in its physical conditions at an epoch immediately preceding and connected with the geological present. Among these are the evidences of prodigious lakes filling up great

valleys, now dry, and leaving their traces in deposits at uniform heights along the mountain sides. Also, great glacial extensions manifested by moraines, till, and boulders:—

"In every part of the Tibetan mountains," observes Dr. Thomson, "and in very many parts of the Indian Himalaya, I have thought that I could recognise unmistakeable proofs of all the valleys having been formerly occupied by glaciers at much lower levels than at present. At first sight it seems rather improbable, that in sub-tropical latitudes the present extension of perpetual snow should at any former period have been exceeded; but it would not be difficult to show that the mean temperature, and particularly the mean summer temperature, is very much higher in the Western Himalaya and Tibet than it might fairly be expected to be in such a latitude. In fact, in the more humid climate of Eastern Bengal, though at least four degrees nearer to the equator, the mean summer temperature at equal elevations in the mountains is probably considerably lower than in the mountains of North-west India, and the snow-level is certainly lower. It is fair, therefore, to conclude, looking back to a period when the sea washed the base of the Himalaya in the upper part of the Punjab, that at that period a very different state of atmospheric circumstances prevailed from that which we find at the present time.

"Wherever I have seen glaciers in Tibet or the mountains of India, I have been able to trace their moraines to a level very considerably lower than their present termination; and when I find in those ranges of the Himalaya which do not at present attain a sufficient elevation to be covered with perpetual snow, series of angular blocks, evidently transported, because different from the rocks which occur *in situ*, and so far as I can judge, exactly analogous in position to the moraines of present glaciers, I feel myself warranted in concluding that they are of glacial origin, and find it necessary to look about for causes which should render it probable that the snow-level should have formerly been lower than it is at present. In the rainy districts of the Himalaya, where forest covers the slopes of the hills, it is difficult to fix the lowest limits at which evident moraines occur, but in many places I have seen them at least three thousand feet lower than the terminations of the present glaciers. In the valley of the Indus, accumulations of boulders, which I believe to be moraines, occur in Rondu as low as 6000 feet."

The chief city of Western Tibet is Le, the capital of Ladak. It is situated 11,800 feet above the level of the sea! Poplar and willow trees grow about it. It contains 3000 inhabitants. In its neighbourhood are perfect examples of some of the more remarkable erections connected with the peculiarities of Tibetan religious belief:—

"The principal monasteries in the neighbourhood of Le are at some distance from the town in the vicinity of villages both up and down the Indus; but religious edifices, of the many kinds which are everywhere so common in Tibet, are seen all round Le in great numbers. Along the road by which we approached the town, there is a very long building, of the kind called *Mané*, extending for more than half a mile. It consists of two parallel walls, twelve or fifteen feet apart, and nearly six feet high, the intervals between which are filled up with stones and rubbish, and the whole covered with a sloping roof, which rises at a gentle angle to the central ridge, midway between the two walls. On the roof are laid large slabs of slate, every one of which is covered with Tibetan letters, or more rarely with a rude drawing of a temple. The words on these stones are (I believe, invariably) a repetition of the mystical Buddhist prayer, from one of the words of which these curious, and apparently useless, erections take their name. The *Mané* seems one of the most indispensable accompaniments of a Tibetan village, and they may occasionally be seen even in desert tracts; so that the amount of labour which has been expended in their construction must have been very great,

some of the largest containing many millions of repetitions of the words *Om Mane Padme Hom*. In the smaller villages they are often very inferior in size, sometimes not more than twenty or thirty feet in length, and three feet high. Every traveller has constant occasion to notice that in passing these walls the Tibetans always leave them on the right hand, considering it both wrong and unlucky to do otherwise; those proceeding in contrary directions therefore take opposite sides.

"Equally conspicuous in the environs of Le are the urn-like buildings, called Chokten or Chosten, which are, I believe, erected over the ashes of Lamas, or priests, and are, therefore, in a country where a third or fourth part of the male population adopt a monastic life, particularly abundant. Long rows of these, consisting of twenty or more urns of various sizes, may often be seen in conspicuous places above the villages, forming, from the brilliant whitewash with which they are covered when new, very prominent objects. Many of those near Le are of large size, and ornamented with rude paintings of dragons and other mythological animals of uncouth form."

Among the discoveries of our traveller is that of the locality whence the borax imported from Tibet is procured. The plain of Pughra is the result of the drying up or drainage of an ancient lake. It is covered to the depth of several feet with white salt, principally borax. By digging below the superficial layer, the borax is obtained in a tolerably pure state.

Near Khapalu, Dr. Thomson found the people occupied washing the sands of the Indus for gold. This is their winter labour, when there is nothing else to be done; for gold seeking is not a profitable business there. For one rupee the traveller bought the whole produce of one man's labour during three weeks. Our diggers are not likely to emigrate to Tibet.

The following account of the geological constitution of the famous vale of Kashmir is not without its interest, and will be new to many of our readers who are familiar, through the travels of Vigne and others, with its picturesque character and proverbial beauty:—

"The plain of Kashmir has evidently at one time been the bed of a lake, a deposit of fine clayey and sandy strata, more rarely partially indurated into a soft sandstone rock, occupying a great part of the surface. Soft pebbly conglomerate is also occasionally met with, and an indurated conglomerate, containing water-worn pebbles, occurs in many places in the lower course of the Sind river. This lacustrine formation forms elevated platforms, which are from fifty to one hundred and fifty feet or more above the level of the river. In many places, both on the Jelam and along the lateral streams which descend from the mountains to join it, the beds of clay have been removed by aqueous action. In such places the plain has a lower level, often very little above the surface of the river, and is covered with rice fields or with marshy lands, undrained and not under cultivation.

"The platforms of lacustrine clay are called, in Kashmir, '*karewahs*.' They are often quite dry, and generally uncultivated; but where water is procurable, they are highly cultivated, yielding luxuriant crops of wheat and barley. A proper application of artificial irrigation would, I believe, make the whole of these more elevated parts of the plain fertile, as the soil is everywhere well adapted for the growth of corn. These *karewahs* generally run parallel to the lateral streams which join the Jelam, and extend from the base of the mountains till they are cut off by the river. There are, however, in the upper part of the valley, several isolated patches, all horizontally stratified, from which I infer that they had originally been continuous. One of these, near Bijbeara, forms a table-topped hill of considerable extent, surrounded on all sides by low land. Several low hills near Islamabad, also, are evidently outlying patches of the same

formation. The sands and sandy clays of these platforms are usually quite non-fossiliferous; but I determined the lacustrine nature of the strata by finding, on the flanks of Takht-i-Suleiman, a hill near the town of Kashmir, and close to the city lake, but at least thirty feet above its level, a bed of clay, which contained, abundantly, shells of the genera *Lymnaea* and *Paludina*."

Connected with this account is the following notice, of great interest to geologists, of an ancient temple imbedded in the later lacustrine clay of the Kashmir plain:—

"The most remarkable fact connected with this very recent lacustrine deposit is, that the ruins of an ancient temple exist on the plain above the Jelam, a little west of the modern village, partially buried in the clay. The upper parts of two temples, resembling in all respects the ruins on the elevated platform at Martand, near Islamabad, stand on the open plain, not far from the river, but perhaps twenty feet above its level, and certainly far below the level to which the clay containing pottery rises on the hill-sides. One of the temples is quite in ruins, the immense blocks of which it is built being piled confusedly on one another. The beautiful colonnade (exactly like that at Martand) by which it is surrounded, is evidently quite uninjured in any way; but it is entirely buried under the lacustrine clay, except a very small portion, consisting of three pillars, which were exposed by Major Cunningham in 1847. These three pillars may be seen in a cavity under the level of the present surface of the ground, and the clay in which they were imbedded contains fragments of pottery in profusion.

"If these temples (the date of which I believe is approximately known to antiquarians) were contemporaneous with the ancient town, they must have been buried in the lacustrine silt at some period not very long subsequent to their erection, if I am right in supposing a lake to have existed at the same time with the town. Probably, therefore, they are anterior in age to the town, as they are imbedded in such masses of pottery as could only have been accumulated in the neighbourhood of a very dense population. Their present appearance, I think, helps to explain the nature and origin of the many lakes or marshy depressions which occur in all parts of the valley. It appears evident that at Avantipura, at some period subsequent to the building of the temples, a subsidence of the ground must have taken place during one of the many earthquakes which are well known to have convulsed the Kashmir valley. This subsidence, which must have been partial, and not co-extensive with the valley, converted the ground on which the temples stood into a lake. A fresh subsidence, or the gradual wearing away of the incoherent clay strata lower down the river, must at last have drained the little lake, and left the country round Avantipura in the state in which we now see it. Even now a marsh partly under water during the spring months extends from Avantipura for several miles up the river.

"The occurrence of repeated partial subsidences in various parts of the Kashmir plain appears to me the only way in which the general appearance of the country can be explained. The abrupt, broad, and shallow depressions between the different platforms are seemingly much too extensive to have been formed by the trifling streamlets which now run along them, without the assistance of volcanic action. The lakes, too, are deeper than the present level of the river, a circumstance only explicable in an alluvial country on some such supposition; and as it is well known that violent earthquakes have at intervals convulsed this valley for many centuries, this mode of explaining the phenomena becomes highly probable."

Dr. Thomson's volume is illustrated by some highly picturesque views of Iskardo, from sketches by Mr. Winterbottom, an accomplished traveller and good naturalist, who has not yet done his duty to the public by communicating the results of his adventurous researches. Also, by an admirably engraved

original map of the mountains of Northern India, drawn by Mr. Arrowsmith, whose love for his favourite science may be traced in the painstaking accuracy and truthful expression manifested in all his delineations of newly explored countries.

A Manual of Artistic Anatomy, for the use of Sculptors, Painters, and Amateurs. By Robert Knox, M.D., F.R.S.E. Renshaw. **WHATEVER** comes from the pen of Dr. Knox is sure to afford amusement to the man of science and information to the general reader. He possesses learning and taste, and is a man of peculiarity if not originality of genius. Of anatomy he has good knowledge, and was long one of its most distinguished teachers. To be regarded as a connoisseur in the Fine Arts he is also ambitious. In the present volume he puts together a quantity of miscellaneous matter, the practical object of which is not very apparent, but which he describes as "an attempt to demonstrate the true relations of anatomy to art, and to show the influence which the interior of man exercises over the exterior." According to Dr. Knox, the true relation of anatomy to fine art has long been misrepresented and misunderstood, and he now comes forth with the utterance of "ideas which he has entertained for a quarter of a century." These ideas are, after all, of no great novelty, and are chiefly remarkable for the moderate place given to anatomical study in the pursuits of the artist. We referred to this lately in reviewing another work of the author, 'Great Artists and Great Anatomists,' an extract from which (*ante*, p. 478) presents the substance of Dr. Knox's views on this matter. He repeats the same things now in a variety of forms. The anatomy of the medical schools is pronounced to be altogether useless for artists, and they are warned from the study of books or lectures intended for professional men. Anatomical works, to be useful for artistic guidance, must be prepared with that special design. With an emphasis remarkable from a practical anatomist, Dr. Knox declares that there is little connexion for artists between the horrors of the dissecting-room and the beauty of the living form.

"In my younger days, influenced by the great names who advocated this view, I fancied for a brief space that anatomy as then taught to the surgeon, was essential to the artist; but deep reflection, mature years, and a wider experience, added to a natural feeling for the beautiful as contrasted with the conventional, taught me the contrary. But even when a student, I felt amazed at the application of the term beautiful to these internal shapes, shapes without form or colour, frightful, hideous, shocking to behold. The true relation of the interior to the exterior has been shown I trust in this Manual."

These views are supported by reference to the history and works of great artists of different times. After detailing the errors of modern artistic education in anatomy, he says that—

"In England, utilitarian England, the coping-stone of folly was placed by Sir Charles Bell and Mr. Haydon. Misunderstanding the object of Da Vinci's dissections (whose matchless sketch-book, now in the Queen's private library, I have lately examined, and shall hereafter describe), forgetting that Michael Angelo had himself admitted the error of his early studies, affecting ignorance of the fact that Raphael and the great masters of Greece and Italy were wholly ignorant of anatomy, or nearly so, in the sense they viewed it, they persisted in a theory and mode of study of the dead

for the living, which, had it been followed to the letter, would have destroyed art for a time in Britain. Rubens, who knew nothing of anatomy, designed grandly; his hand was masterly; in composition unsurpassed."

We may remark, in passing, that a term constantly occurring in this work and others on the subject, the study of 'living anatomy,' as opposed to that of the dead body in the medical schools, is a misnomer, which the obvious derivation and meaning of the word should banish from use.

The most amusing portions of Dr. Knox's book relate to public taste and public patronage of the Fine Arts:—

"I foresee the struggle which must arise between the artists of Britain and a grasping, calculating, commercial race, fettering their genius, and forcing it into unmeaning, official, trading channels. Fancy a young Raphael at the mercy of a Parliamentary Committee, composed of fat cattle admirers, headed by the notable who commenced his career by spouting some commonplace about the Fine Arts; telling the weavers of Rochdale that henceforward 'the struggle of nations must be in the workshop!' Pleasant prospect for genius! Such are the views of the illustrious by courtesy, who, unhappily, sway the destiny of art and artists in Britain; tradesmen by their nature, all is trade with them. Royal Academies, Schools of Design, National Galleries, woods and forests, sewers and gully-holes, it is all the same to them, from a *temporal accident* in the Church (a bishopric) to a commissionership of sewers and gully-holes! These are the persons with whom the artists of Britain have to deal: they occasionally mislead the public, throwing back art for a century.

"Such are the obstacles to the improvements of art in Britain; the climate also offers some, and the character of the dominant race another. The Saxon mind, as regards art, is low and boorish; generally speaking, he does not know what you mean by fine art."

The following passage on the Crystal Palace rivals the invectives of Colonel Sibthorp; the objections here, however, arising from principles of taste not motives of patriotism:—

"When quite a young man, I visited London at a time when there stood in Hyde Park certain Chinese bridges, pagodas, and heathen deities. I was lost in wonder. I may visit it shortly and will find, so I learn, that not far from the same locality a large conservatory or hothouse, upon the most approved model, has been erected. There is a fatality in certain countries ruinous to the arts. 'A nation of shopkeepers (the phrase is not mine) constructed the workshop of the earth.' In its heated atmosphere trees may live, but genius and art must decay and perish.

"This glass-house or monster glazed cast-metal case is not a building. What then is it? and under what category shall we place it? It is merely a national mistake, not at all unusual with the race to which the nation belongs."

On this subject of 'race,' Dr. Knox talks an infinite deal of nonsense. "The great aim of modern artists," he says in one place, "should be to avoid the vulgarities of Celtic or Saxon nature." "The Saxon mind is remarkable for its mechanical utilitarian tendencies; for its love of detail and machinery; for its dislike to system, and to great and original ideas; its contempt for deep thinkers." The absurdity of these and similar remarks is too plain to require comment. They arise from Dr. Knox's peculiar theories of the separate origin and permanent distinctness of human races; and he takes no account of the historical epochs of the world, and the spirit of the present age as devoted to inductive science and its practical applications, in which the Saxon mind has borne the noblest share.

In his sneers at the 'Saxon minds' of Watt and Faraday, perhaps also of Bacon and Newton, he might have remembered Milton and Shakspeare. Yet the people by whom their works are still held in such veneration, are "a race remarkable for dislike to great and original ideas, and contempt for deep thinkers!" One would suppose, from Dr. Knox's tirades, that he was alone, among Celt or Saxon, in his perception of the classic and the beautiful, an artistic *Athanasius contra mundum*, and that in this work, for the first time, any notice was taken of particular crimes against taste, such as the National Gallery and the fountains of Trafalgar-square. At the same time, there is truth and point occasionally in the satires, dealt in his own peculiar style, against some follies of the day:—

"I have been informed that a monument is to be erected somewhere in the United States which will astonish the world. I have not the least doubt of it. From London to Grattkeynet, from Scandinavia to Washington, it is all the same."

And then again he launches out into abuse of the Saxon race.

Although defaced by occasional absurdities such as these, Dr. Knox's book contains sensible and instructive matter. The anatomical part is such as might be expected from an anatomist of his high reputation. The woodcuts, by Dr. Westmacott, are well designed. The style is throughout lively, interspersed with numerous anecdotes, and the cool, complacent egotism of the author adds to the piquancy of the book. The title, 'A Manual of Artistic Anatomy,' is rather imposing for a series of sketches so miscellaneous, and certainly not the least presumptuous or egotistical part of the work. Dr. Knox considers himself, in matters of artistic taste, the sole surviving oracle, in fact, the 'last man'—*après moi le déluge*.

The Life of King Alfred. By Dr. R. Pauli. Edited by Thomas Wright, M.A., F.S.A. Bentley.

THIS work, the first independent literary production of a young German scholar of much acknowledged merit and greater promise, was originally composed in the author's own language, and published in his country, where it met with a flattering reception from critics and historians. In England, too, a work of so specifically a national character was not likely to pass unnoticed, although, owing to the fact of its being in *German*, the reputation of the book has hitherto been greater than its popularity. It was almost a grievance that a life of the greatest of English kings, chiefly drawn from English sources, and conceived, and we make bold to say matured, under the influence of English thought, should be accessible only through the help of a foreign medium; and although the author declares that, "as a German," he wrote "for Germans," we take the liberty of doubting, not the sincerity of his intention, but his success in that particular object of his ambition. His is an *English* book in every respect, and it will, thanks to the translator and Mr. Wright, add an important feature in our historical literature.

Mr. Wright, indeed, is entitled to our thanks in more than one respect. He had an opportunity, and perhaps he was exposed to the temptation, of making his edition of Pauli's 'King Alfred' the arena of a literary quarrel. He disagrees with the author as to the

genuineness of one of the chief sources of the life of King Alfred. Mr. Wright doubts the authenticity of a biography of that king which is alleged to have been written by his bishop, Asser. A few years ago he published some reasons for his doubts, and his opinions were controverted, in the first instance by Dr. Lingard, and afterwards by Dr. Pauli, in the very work which Mr. Wright now edits. Here, then, was a fair opportunity for a voluminous addition to the 'Quarrels of Authors.' Mr. Wright had it all his own way. He might, if he chose, have belaboured his luckless antagonist with marginal notes, and vexed him with notes of interrogation and astonishment in the very text of his work. What indeed was there to prevent him? Fate and the publisher had driven the enemy into his hands. In this trying position Mr. Wright's firmness is equal to his tact and forbearance, and the three virtues are alike creditable to him. He merely states the point in dispute, and says: "I confess that my own suspicions on the subject are not at present diminished, but in this place I would wish to abstain from controversy." And immediately afterwards he adds, that his share in the edition is very small, owing to want of time, though, "if I had had more time, I do not think that I could have made it more acceptable to the reader than it will be for its own merits." He laments that the author, in his admiration of his hero, should unintentionally have adopted too much of the style of the panegyrist; that on the one side he shows a sort of chivalrous sensitiveness at the slightest incident which would intimate the possibility of casting a blot, however small, on the object of his adoration; while, on the other, it is evident that he gives up with great reluctance even a palpable fable, if it tends to enhance his glory. But we are free to admit that this fault, at least, was scarcely to be avoided, especially in a biography which is the result rather of a discovery of new, than a *critique* of existing, materials. It is a dire necessity that first biographers must be hero-worshippers. They would not be tempted to write a man's life, unless they discovered some extraordinary greatness, goodness, or glory in him. Chained as they are to a single character, compelled to bring it out in strong relief on all occasions, and instinctively conscious that unless they interest their readers for their hero, their account of him must needs seem trite and weary, biographers are of necessity driven into strong expressions of violent love and admiration. But this constitutional failing is really of little importance. In the court of history, they are the advocates rather than the judges, and if things are as they ought to be, the biographer's partiality is corrected by the impartiality of the historian. Hence, when we subscribe to Mr. Wright's objections, we do so in no unfriendly spirit. Indeed, without excessive love and admiration, it is impossible that the author could have performed his task, which is not of the common order. For a life of Alfred there was a woeful lack of materials. The lives which have been given to us by Hume and Sharon Turner are scarcely more than a mass of legend. They cannot bear looking into. Dr. Pauli has had nothing to depend upon except Asser's life of Alfred, the 'Saxon Chronicle,' and a few autobiographical fragments. Asser is so hopelessly interpolated, that even eminent scholars can make nothing of it, and are glad to escape from its difficulties by condemning it altogether. And the

'Saxon Chronicle' yields at first sight only a list of battles, and after them legendary lore, very edifying, no doubt, but very objectionable as material for history. Still, whatever records there are of King Alfred's life are hidden beneath this rubbish, and not only hidden beneath it, but fused into it, into a mass of bewildering and seemingly hopeless confusion. If it had been easy to write King Alfred's life, we should have had one long before this. And yet out of the night of ages, out of this mass of confusion, Dr. Pauli has been enabled to trace the character, and record the actions, of England's greatest Saxon king, with such life-like colours, and withal with so much correctness, as to excite our astonishment and admiration, and almost to disarm criticism. Our readers may judge of the style of the work from the following description of King Alfred's early years:—

"What were the first objects which offered themselves to the boy's young mind? They were, doubtless, the soul-invigorating sight of the natural beauties around, the green hue of forest and of plain, and the blue canopy of heaven, with its clouds, chased by a fresh wind over the island. And then, when his father and his household left the place, and proceeded to some distant royal residence, the child's eye rested, no doubt, upon the boundless and ever lovely ocean, 'where the whale reigns supreme in the heaving waves, and the sea-gull bathes itself.' But in those times the same sea was covered by the vessels of those lawless nordes, at whose coming every man grasped his sword, and of whose ferocity and heartlessness Alfred must have been told in the first words his infant ear could understand. In the midst of warlike bustle, and in the free breeze of heaven, the boy grew up visibly, to the great delight of his parents, handsomer in appearance and more amiable in conversation and behaviour than any of his brothers. The charm inspired by this mildness of disposition was greatly increased by his innate desire to do honour to his noble birth, by the development of an equally noble mind; but it must not, however, be supposed that he entertained any ideas of what is, at the present day, termed a good education. In those times the church, which was the only teacher, occupied itself merely with the instruction of those who had devoted themselves to its especial service; it was a rare exception when a great layman, a king or noble, for instance, was driven, by a thirst for knowledge, and a consciousness of its utility, to learn to read and to write. The exercises of his youth were confined to the strengthening of his body by warlike games and by the chase, while, in the case of all nations of German origin, the mind was, at an early age, gladdened and improved by the songs of the sages of the land. It was the mother or the nurse who first related to the child the deeds of heroes in bygone ages, and how they fought with men and monsters. If ever any mother was acquainted with all the poetical treasures of her country, which yet lived intact in the hearts and mouths of all, it was Osburh, to whom Alfred was never tired of listening. His young heart found delight, by day and night, in the mighty lays that sang of his ancestors and his people."

We have only room for another extract—an example of the manner in which the author extracts the pith of a story from the excrescences and embellishments of a later age. Every one knows the story of Alfred defeated and a fugitive, hid in a cottage in the wood, and how the peasant's wife told him to mind the bread in the oven. He did not, however, mind it. On finding the bread all burnt—

"She rushed angrily at him, and began scolding him as follows:

"Holloa, thou varlet!
Dost thou not see that the loaves burn? Why
dost thou not turn them?"

Ready enough art thou always to eat them hot from the baking."

"The hexameter which has crept into the prose narration, is of itself sufficient to render the authenticity of the latter doubtful, but at the same time it seems to prove that the whole was at one time a popular ballad."

After doing justice to a legend of St. Neot's, which was evidently invented for the greater glory of the monks, Dr. Pauli proceeds:—

"The story contains in itself nothing improbable. But the fact of Florence not knowing it, is a sufficient proof that it did not exist in the genuine 'Vita.' It is, however, a remarkable circumstance that this chronicler seems in one instance to allude to its pure origin. On the occasion of his mentioning the elevation of Denewulf to the see of Winchester, we are told that this man, if report is to be trusted, was unable to read until he had attained an advanced age, and that he had formerly been a swineherd. The account proceeds to state, that when Alfred was an exile in the woods, he became acquainted with Denewulf, as the latter was driving his hogs to fatten on the acorns. His natural talent attracted the attention of the king, who provided for his instruction, and afterwards raised him to so proud a position."

It would have been an agreeable task, under the author's guidance, to follow King Alfred through the years of his troubled reign, to comment on his private and public virtues, on the evils of his time, and the remedies which he applied to them. But our limits will not allow us to do more than is sufficient to claim for the work that popularity which it so well deserves.

NOTICES.

The Betting-Book. By George Cruikshank. W. and F. G. Cash.

THIS is a witty elaborate dissection of the vicious system of betting and gambling that has become organized throughout the metropolis during the last twelvemonth. Upwards of three hundred 'offices' have been opened for the purpose of entrapping the many silly young men that are to be found amongst those that occupy the posts of clerk, shopman, porter, errand-boy, &c.; and a most profitable trade has been carried on among all grades of these at all prices, to the loss of their masters' tills, and the discomfiture of their mind's peace and social honesty. That such a demoralising and open system of plunder should have gone on so long without the interference of the legislature is a notable instance of 'the law's delay.' Even now, that so much publicity has been given to the corrupt influence of these betting offices, the evil is still on the increase. Only last week a clerk in the banking-house of Messrs. Robarts, Curtis and Co. was, after ten years' service, convicted of filching a thousand pounds from the till, at different times, for the purpose of making up his betting-book. He could not choose but plead guilty, and is doomed to banishment. Thus we have an example of the most touching kind even while the account of those quoted by the author of this pamphlet was being submitted to press. To all who feel any inclination to bet we recommend the perusal of this pamphlet. It is written with great smartness and cleverness; and while it amuses by its drollery, it exposes by its serious details the working and results of this evil in a manner that does exemplary honour to the head and heart of the great caricaturist.

Popular Tables, for Ascertaining the Value of Lifehold, Leasehold, Church, and other Property.

By Charles M. Willich. Longmans.

MR. WILlich, Secretary and Actuary to the University Life Assurance Company, well known as one of our best statistical authorities, has added another to the valuable works on financial subjects already published by him, and from the nature of its contents, one of more extended interest and use. The Tithe Commutation Tables, with the

annual supplement, the Income Tax Tables, and the Savings Banks' Interest Tables, by Mr. Willich, have been well received by those for whose use they are specially intended. The present volume contains a mass of miscellaneous information, in tabular form, on a variety of subjects, and especially on Lifehold, Leasehold, Church, and other transferable property. In those tables connected with the duration of life, the calculations have been based on the Carlisle tables of mortality, which are now generally considered the most correct. Up to the present time the only tables involving three lives have been some prepared by Mr. Francis Bailey, in 1802, founded on the Northampton tables. The tabular expositions of the value of property are remarkably clear, and supply a truly "ready reckoner" on all such subjects. The arrangement in many of the Tables, by which the number of years' purchase and the present worth of 100*l.* a year are shown at sight by the same numbers, is novel, and will be found very convenient. Besides the Lifehold, Leasehold, and other Property Tables, there are a great number of miscellaneous tables, useful to surveyors, stewards, land agents, builders, solicitors, and other professional and practical men. The tabular views of the annual average price of the 3 per cent. consols, with rates of interest, from 1731 to 1851, with the corresponding historical and political events, and also the statements of the annual average prices of wheat, barley, and oats, present matter of interest to the general reader. Tables of logarithms, of squares, cubes, roots, and reciprocals of numbers, lists of constants, comparative tables of weights, measures, money, coins, &c., increase the value of the volume. Altogether it is a book of reference equally adapted for the office of the man of business and for the library table of the private gentleman, and will be found of great value to all who are either possessors or managers of most kinds of property.

Caledonia Romana; a Descriptive Account of the Roman Antiquities of Scotland, by the late Robert Stuart. 2nd Edition. Revised by David Thomson, M.A., Trinity College, Cambridge. Sutherland and Knox.

We notice with pleasure a new edition of a work well known to antiquaries, and which, at the time of its appearance, presented the best account of Roman antiquities in the northern part of the island. Mr. Thomson, Professor of Natural Philosophy at Aberdeen, was senior wrangler of his year at Cambridge, and is one of the first mathematicians of the day. In undertaking the task of editing a work on subjects to which he has devoted less attention he acts as literary executor to Mr. Stuart, who was his brother-in-law. By his own archaeological knowledge and taste he is qualified for the duty, and he has had the valuable assistance of Mr. Buchanan of Glasgow, and of Dr. Daniel Wilson, Honorary Secretary of the Society of Scottish Antiquaries, and author of 'The Pre-Historic Annals of Scotland.' With their co-operation the work has been carefully revised, and the very important archaeological facts which have come to light since the former edition of 1844 have been incorporated in the work. A biographical sketch of Mr. Stuart adds to the value of the volume.

Annals and Legends of Calais. By Robert Bell Calton. Author of 'Rambles in Sweden,' &c. J. Russell Smith.

Few places on the Continent have to English readers more historical interest than the town of Calais. The most memorable events are here recorded, from the time of the famous siege under Edward III., when John de Vienne made so long and gallant a defence, and when at length the chief citizens had to bring out the keys of the town and castle with halters round their necks in unconditional submission. One of the most curious chapters relates to the annals of Calais when it was an English borough, and a list of the English names of the streets is given, as they existed under Henry VIII. in 1556, two years before the recapture of the town by the Duke of Guise. Of local legends and traditions, such as all old towns possess, a due proportion belongs to Calais, and the more

remarkable are narrated. A peculiar interest is attached to more recent associations of the place, as the resort of what Mr. Calton calls "Emigré notabilities," including many chevaliers d'industrie, and gentlemen in difficulty, to whom a residence on the French side of the Channel was advisable. Sketches are given of the Hon. Messrs. Tufton, Captain Doerner, and Edith of Valenciennes, Beau Brummell, Jemmy Urquhart, who ventured over to London to see his friend Mr. Fauntleroy hanged, Mr. Apperley, better known as 'Nimrod,' Mr. Berkeley Craven, Miss Chudleigh, afterwards Duchess of Kingston, and other notables. The last chapter is devoted to a memoir of Nelson's Lady Hamilton, who spent the close of her life at Calais in great distress, and was buried in the timber-yard there. From the copy of the official register, it appears that she was 51 years of age when she died, Jan. 15, 1815. Mr. Calton's book is amusing to the general reader, as well as valuable for its historical facts.

Inner Africa Laid Open, in an Attempt to Trace the Chief Lines of Communication across that Continent South of the Equator. By William Desborough Cooley. Longman & Co.

WITHIN the last few years hopes have been raised of our at length obtaining some authentic knowledge of the interior of Africa. Encroachments are being made by geographers on the vast spaces in the maps over which the mysterious words *terra incognita* used to be written. To the central parts of Southern Africa attention has latest of all been directed, but with a spirit and success of which the results are already apparent. In the present work an analysis is given of the discoveries of Messrs. Oswell and Livingstone in the interior, and the journeys of the Rev. Drs. Krapf and Rebmann on the Eastern coast. From other sources much information is collected on different parts of the country. The routes are given to the countries of the Muro-pue and the Cazembe, to Moenemoezi, and to the Lake Nyassa, the inland sea of Eastern Africa. To many readers, these and other names on Mr. Cooley's map will be almost new. The book certainly contains matter which, although known to those who study the journals of the Geographical Society, and other sources of recent information on these parts, is little known to the general reader. The author commences his work by an apologetic explanation of the non-appearance of a map, to have been published by Arrowsmith, to which the volume was intended to be subsidiary. Disappointed in his plan, Mr. Cooley publishes the memoir with merely a small map for illustration of general views. Perhaps it is as well that the attempt to produce a more perfect map of a country, the discoveries in which are likely to be rapidly progressive, has not been carried out. The appearance of the memoir serves sufficiently the purpose of a record of existing discoveries, and in this Mr. Cooley has done a good service to geographical students.

SUMMARY.

SINCE the appearance of Bogue's series of *Guide-books for Travellers*, the first of which we noticed lately, a new edition of Murray's *Handbooks* has begun to be issued, the price of which is greatly reduced, and the shape of the volume, with its flexible binding, extremely convenient for tourists. The works are too well known to call for any remark at present, further than that the information is brought down to the most recent date, and improvements are made in the matter according to the times. The first volume contains *Belgium and the Rhine*. The second of Bogue's *Guide-books* contains *Switzerland and Savoy*, and is prepared in a way which sustains the commendation bestowed on the previous volume. We think the publisher might have selected some other colour for his binding than the well-known red of Murray's *Hand-books*. There is room enough for competition in the substance of the volumes without interfering with an external matter like this. The travelling public have now the advantage of

two English series of guide-books, of small cost, and prepared with great accuracy and care.

The last number of the *Postulates and Data*, a weekly publication, which we noticed in last 'Gazette,' contains papers on the diverse subjects of 'Parliamentary Prospects,' 'Some Nautical Matters,' and 'Critical Annotations on Plato.' In the nautical paper, the author refers to the frequent and disastrous losses of steam-vessels of late years, which he chiefly ascribes to the system of giving the command to officers of the Royal Navy, who are preferred to more suitable commanders, only from their possessing the mystic letters of R.N. with their names, while they take less pains in their duty than plainer mariners are used to do. The subject is worthy of inquiry after the instances here collected.

A *Mesmeric Guide for Family Use*, by S. D. Saunders, presents a series of recipes and directions, some of them curious, and some of them very disgusting, such as the process for mesmerising water, by looking into it, and breathing into it, and subsequent manipulation; after which, the patient is to drink the water out of a glass mesmerised in a similar manner. A list of books on Mesmerism, given in the appendix, shows that the subject has a literature of its own more extensive than many are aware. The treatment of burns and inflammation by mesmeric passes, joined with cold lotions, is amusing, the latter being named as being very secondary aids in the cure.

Ollivier's Parliamentary Register of Contested Elections, contrasting the returns of 1847 *et seq.* with 1852, is a book the purposes and utilities of which for those interested is apparent from the title.

A new tale, by Mrs. Challice, author of 'The Village School Fête,' *The Laurel and the Palm*, has some good delineations of character and well-arranged incidents; but the style is over-ornate, abounding in adjectives, perhaps purposely to suit the taste of readers of novelettes.

In the absence of a regular 'Handbook' on a country hitherto seldom visited for purposes of study or recreation, a little work is issued by Mr. Murray, *Hints to Travellers in Portugal* in search of the beautiful and the grand, with an itinerary of some of the most interesting parts of the country. The brief notices here presented suffice to prove that this part of the Peninsula deserves to be more carefully explored by lovers of scenery as well as by scientific travellers. The mineral and other resources of the country are great, and after a few travellers have brought reports of the land, England is likely to have other associations with Portugal than those of war and of wine, to which the intercourse of the countries has hitherto been principally confined.

An authentic report of the *Speech of Viscount Jocelyn, M.P.*, in the House of Commons, on the case of *The Ameers of Upper Scinde*, June 23rd, 1852, will be valued by those interested in Indian affairs and Indian history. Of the merits of the controversy with General William Napier we forbear to speak, but the case in behalf of the Ameers is here put with earnestness and ability. With some points in dispute the public are already familiar, from the correspondence in the *Times* between Lord Jocelyn and Sir Charles Napier and General Napier, the historian of his brother's Scindian campaign and administration.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

- Arnold's Handbook of Roman Antiquities, 12mo, 3s. 6d.
- Sophocles, Part 4, Oedipus at Colonus, 12mo, 4s.
- Art of Conversation, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
- Bellenger's French Conversation, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
- Butler's (J. O.) Geography of the Globe, 12mo, 4s. 6d.
- (Rev. W. A.) Sermons, 8vo, cloth, 12s.
- Burke's International Copyright Act, 12mo, boards, 5s.
- Cooley's (W. D.) Inner Africa Laid Open, 8vo, cloth, 7s.
- Corf's (Eliza) Moral and Religious Essays, 12mo, 10s.
- Dod's Parliamentary Companion, 1852, 32mo, 4s. 6d.
- Graham's (F.) Studies from English Poets, 12mo, 7s.
- Handbook for Northern Italy, post 8vo, cloth, 12s.
- for Switzerland (Murray's), post 8vo, 7s. 6d.
- Hardcastle's (W.) Rational Arithmetic, 18mo, cloth, 2s.
- Hints to Travellers in Portugal, post 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
- Hughes's (E.) Atlas of Bible Lands, 12mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
- Jameson's (Rev. F. J.) Analogy of Scripture, 12mo, 2s.

Jenks's Family Devotions, by Simeon, post 8vo, 2s. 6d. cloth, gilt, 3s.
 Leaves from my Journal during 1851, post 8vo, 9s. 6d.
 Library of Health, Vol. 5, 12mo, sewed, 1s. 6d.
 Neville's (Rev. C.) Analysis of Church Principles, 3s. 6d.
 Olin's (S.) Works, 2 Vols. post 8vo, cloth, 5s.
 Papers for the Schoolmaster, Vol. 1, crown 8vo, 2s. 6d.
 Pall's First Principles of General Knowledge, 18mo, 1s. 6d.
 Piddington on Hurricanes, 8vo, cloth, 7s.
 Remarks on Treating, &c. at Elections, 8vo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
 Romanism an Apostate Church, post 8vo, cloth, 6s.
 Rouillon's Analytical Table of French Nouns, 2s. 6d.
 Sutherland's Voyage in Baffin's Bay in 1850-1851, £1 7s.
 Thacker's Courser and Stud Book for 1851-2.
 Thiersch's History of the Christian Church, Vol. 1, 6s.
 Thornton's Commentary upon Sermon on the Mount, 3s.
 Tramp (A) to the Diggings; or, Australia in 1852, 8vo, 7s.
 Tunstall's Rambles about Bath, 12mo, cloth, 5s.
 Uncle Tom's Cabin, crown 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 Willement's Conversations of Little Herbert, &c., 1s. 6d.
 Wright's (Thomas) History of Ludlow, 8vo, cloth, 16s. 6d. royal 8vo, £1 5s.
 Willich's (C. M.) Popular Tables, post 8vo, cloth, 9s.

SCIENCE, ART, AND LABOUR.

OUR announcement of the premeditated concentration of the Learned Societies appears to have given rise to an impression, that the recent movement for that end in the Royal Society has some connexion with the scheme of an Industrial College under the consideration of Prince Albert. As it is important that the public mind should not be misled on this point, we have authority for stating that such is not the case. The plan suggested by a contemporary of forming a single University of all the institutions of science, art, and labour in the kingdom, extending an influence "into scholastic Oxford, not less than into mercantile Manchester, into literary Edinburgh, as well as into smoke-enveloped Sheffield," is an enlargement of our idea of the principle of juxtaposition far beyond the bounds of usefulness, or even of practicableness. It would be injudicious, to say the least, to mix up the industrial training of artisans and mechanics with the senatorial proceedings of our philosophers, the elements of practical teaching with the reading and discussion of abstract original researches, the exhibition of tools, models, apparatus, and machinery in motion with the libraries and museums of our chartered Societies. Now that the Exhibition of All Nations has brought the workman and manufacturer to see how much of their labour, compared with that of other countries, is wanting in excellence; now that English industry is open to receive improvement from industrial education, while the researches of scientific men are beginning to be moulded to the use of the workman; and now, moreover, that the Government has pledged itself, in the speech from the throne, to support these objects, great is the judgment needed in arranging the means and in the general business of organization. Three new institutions have sprung out of this condition of things—the Museum of Practical Geology, the Museum of Practical Botany, and the Museum of Practical Art. Here are the nuclei of an admirable system of professorial teaching in three principal departments, and we recommend that these be added, the first two to the British Museum, and the last to the National Gallery, while the Government School of Mines be incorporated with the foundation of Prince Albert's College of Mechanical Industry. The collections of the British Museum being in a tolerably advanced state of arrangement, though still wanting in the manifestations of learning that should result from a well-appointed Professoriate, it is time to think of making that Institution an educational one, for the instruction as well of amateurs as of those who would become teachers, lecturers, travellers, and the like. To give space for this and the increasing requirements of the library, we suggest that the prints, marbles, and all that appertains to art, be removed to form a new National Gallery.

Our metropolitan institutions of science, art, and labour should, we suggest, be arranged under six heads, as follows:—

1. THE BRITISH MUSEUM, including the library, with a classed as well as an alphabetical catalogue; the scientific collections of recent objects, arranged both systematically and geographically; the collections of osteology and comparative anatomy, at

present mixed up with the professional collections of the College of Surgeons; the fossil collections, including those of the Museum of Practical Geology, arranged stratigraphically; and the collections of economic botany from Kew; with a Professoriate for the purposes of practical and scientific teaching.

2. A NATIONAL GALLERY, to include the pictures, sculptures, ancient and modern, prints, coins, medals, &c., the works of the Royal Academy and the Museum of Practical Art, with a Professoriate.

3. AN INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE of Mechanical Art and Manufactures, with a Professoriate, including the Government School of Mines and the Institution of Civil Engineers.

4. A SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE, for the concentration of the chartered Societies and their Libraries, their collections being transferred to the British Museum.

5. A LITERARY INSTITUTE of Modern and Oriental Literature, Statistics, &c.

6. AN ANTIQUARIAN INSTITUTE, including the collections of antiquities (sculpture excepted) from the British Museum, with accommodation for the different Archaeological Societies and their libraries.

On a future occasion we may enter into this plan in detail, and suggest a means of extending its benefits to our provincial and colonial cities.

SCIENTIFIC BALLOON ASCENT.

Aug. 19.

YOUR meteorological readers will doubtless be interested in knowing the result of the experiments made during the balloon ascent on Tuesday, though my time is at present so much occupied that any account I can yet give must necessarily be very imperfect.

The main object contemplated by the projectors of these aërostatic expeditions is the determination of the laws of change in the temperature and humidity as we rise in the atmosphere. Other experiments and observations are not lost sight of, but it is proposed to attempt at first only what there is some probability of being satisfactorily executed, it being of more use to do one thing well than to do many things imperfectly. Such subjects as atmospheric electricity and (less probably) magnetism may be taken up when the observers have become familiarized with their work.

The weather on Tuesday, the day fixed for the first ascent, was as fair as could be hoped for, in the midst of such variety as we have had lately. The inflation of Mr. Green's great Nassau balloon having been accomplished from the Vauxhall gas-works, the ascent took place about 10 minutes before 4 P.M., with wonderfully few instrumental casualties, considering the great oscillation of the car, previous to starting, from the action of the wind on the balloon. We then steadily rose and continued rising until about 13 minutes before 5 P.M., when we could rise no higher. The barometer indicated that we were about 19,500 feet above the earth, and the temperature, which was about 72° at Vauxhall, had fallen to 7° (25° below the freezing point of water), or through 65° of Fahrenheit's scale. From the earth, the sky seemed about three-quarters covered with clouds—the lowest stratum being composed of detached masses of *cumulus*, an intermediate stratum of higher *cumuli*, and *cirrostratus* and *cirrocumuli* above all. The first stratum of clouds we passed very soon after leaving the earth at a height of about half-a-mile, the second seemed about 2½ miles high, but the highest cirrostratus clouds were still above us at our greatest elevation, although apparently not very far. Near the highest point of our course, small star-shaped crystals of snow of perhaps one-twenty-fifth or one-thirtieth of an inch diameter, were seen falling, (possibly their apparent fall was due to the rise of the balloon.)

Observations of the thermometer, hygrometer, and barometer, were taken at very short intervals during the ascent and the first portion of the descent, until it became necessary to provide for the safety of the instruments. Specimens of the air at different elevations were taken for analysis. The descent was accomplished with much ease about 25 minutes past 5 P.M., and the balloon secured with little trouble, near the village of Swavesey in

Cambridgeshire, about sixty miles north of London. This distance was passed over in about an hour and a-half, showing that an immense mass of air was moving very rapidly from the south. Accounts received from various stations seem to show that this strong south wind was prevalent over a large portion of country. The thunder-storm which broke out on Tuesday evening had not commenced during our voyage, nor was any indication of it visible except a shower at some distance. The sun was quite obscured during almost the whole period.

At the elevation to which we attained, no personal inconvenience of any moment was experienced; I only perceived a slight oppression about the temples and ears, but no difficulty in breathing. Mr. Nicklin perceived, besides, a slight difficulty in breathing before reaching the greatest height, but the feeling went quickly off, even before we began to descend. So slight, however, was any inconvenience we experienced from the rarity of the air that it did not in the least interfere with our regular work of observing and recording. The cold would of course have become disagreeable had we continued long in it.

This first voyage should be considered chiefly as a preliminary and educational one; neither the managing committee nor the observers having had any previous experience whatever in aërostation. It will not be surprising, therefore, if the experience gathered from the ascent of Tuesday should lead to considerable alterations in the instruments and mode of observing in future experiments of this nature. The results obtained from this first attempt are doubtless of much value, but we are in hopes that by some alterations in our mode of procedure, a greater amount of instruction may be derived from subsequent voyages.

The Kew Committee have been peculiarly fortunate in obtaining the zealous co-operation of Mr. Green; his great experience and well-known ability and caution, afford a guarantee that the risks attending these expeditions will be reduced to a minimum. The confidence which his dexterous management of the immense but beautiful instrument cannot fail to inspire, will contribute much to that calmness in the observer which is so necessary in the presence of unusual phenomena.

JOHN WELSH.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL CONGRESS.

THE Archæological Association has been enjoying the week with much interest at Newark, under the presidency of the Duke of Newcastle. The address of the Mayor, with which the proceedings may be said to have opened, was a 'right merrie' production, and elicited due archæological sympathy.—"We, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors," said his worship, "of the ancient borough of Newark-upon-Trent, present you our hearty welcome to a town whose record is to have been the centre of many a tented field, the stronghold of kings in their trying hour, indomitable by siege or assault, emphatically the key of the north; still retaining many a trace of pristine dignity in tessellated pavement and sepulchral vase, in dyke and rampart of defence, in the architectural beauties of a peerless sanctuary, and, above all, in the majestic ruins of a far renowned castle. A district adorned in all ages no less by men of the gown, the heralds of peace, than by the champions of the sword—where Cranmer, the martyr, and Warburton, most profound, and Secker, most gentle, of the sages of the Church, first drew the breath of life."

The first evening's meeting was occupied with the inaugural address of the President, and the reading of "two papers on the renowned outlaw and cut-throat," Robin Hood. Being in the vicinity of Sherwood Forest, it was deemed a fitting opportunity for the discussion of a discovery lately made by the Rev. J. Hunter among the records of the Exchequer as to the veritable existence of this hero. Mr. Gutch quoted several passages from ancient ballads detailing the exploits of Robin Hood, and was firmly of opinion that he robbed and cut throats about the year 1323, and was no mythical personage. Mr. Halliwell, on the contrary, argued

against this conjecture, from the circumstance that there is no mention of him in contemporary history. Had he been engaged in robbing and cutting throats in the latter part of the thirteenth century, he would have unquestionably been mentioned by Matthew Paris, Benedictus Abbas, and other writers. He believed that he was a winged myth, and that the name so familiar to our romantic ears was merely a corruption of 'Robin of the Wood.' Historians must be careful. Who knows but that in another six hundred years a congress of antiquaries may not be held in Epping Forest to discuss the identity of Jonathan Wild, of Jack Sheppard, or of Mr. Buckstone's foundling, the son of the Putney pet?

Wednesday was spent by the Association in a very agreeable and social manner. The first object of attention was Thurgarton Priory, about seven miles distant from Newark, whence an invitation to breakfast had been received from the owner, Mr. Richard Milward. The principal seat of archaeological research was the wine-cellar, being a fine crypt, the only remaining portion of the original priory. A few local relics were then exhibited, including a large piece of lead cast at Chesterfield by the Romans, and some curious specimens of tessellated pavement. On returning to Nottingham, the company were met by the Duke of Newcastle, and again escorted to a wine-cellar, constructed in an ancient cave extending a distance of 173 yards, sixty-three feet from the surface. Nottingham Castle was visited, and the party proceeded by railway to Newstead Abbey, where they were most cordially and hospitably entertained by Colonel and Mrs. Wildman. Having assembled in the drawing-room, a paper was read on the history of the abbey by Mr. Pettigrew. The original structure, of which a few portions are still remaining, was one of the thirteen priories that existed in this locality at the time of the dissolution of monasteries. The chief interest attaches, however, to the modern mansion, from its having been the residence of Lord Byron. Here many of his imperishable writings were composed. After being forced to consent to its sale, Lord Byron was gratified on finding that it had fallen into the possession of Colonel Wildman, his schoolfellow and monitor at Harrow, and wrote a letter to him expressive of his satisfaction.

Thursday was occupied by an excursion to Clumber, the seat of his Grace the President, the Association examining in their way Worksop Abbey Church and the ruins of St. Mary's Chapel adjoining. As much of this ancient architecture is falling into decay, the archaeologists suggested, and the Duke and the Vicar promised, that every precaution should be adopted for its preservation. At Clumber the day was spent in viewing the mansion, its paintings, books, manuscripts, curiosities, &c., and the grounds, with their conservatories, shrubberies, plantations, terraces, and extensive lake, with a miniature fleet of vessels, up to a frigate of forty tons, floating upon it. On returning in the evening to Newark, the members met for the despatch of archaeological business, and a paper by Mr. Bateman was read, descriptive of the barrows that had been opened in different parts of the county, and the arms and ornaments found in them. A paper, by Mr. Jewitt, on the ancient customs and sports of Nottingham, was read; and one by Mr. Baigent, on discoveries lately made in the Church of St. John, at Winchester.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

HAVING blamed the civic authorities on several occasions for their neglect or destruction of tessellated pavements, crypts, and other Roman and Saxon remains exposed to the pickaxe and shovel during the recent alterations in the City, we welcome with interest any new aspiration of archaeological zeal. At the anniversary dinner and election of officers of the worshipful company of Girdlers on Thursday, the ancient ceremony was revived of crowning the Master and Wardens. Three ancient caps and a crown elaborately embroidered in gold on coloured silks, with the Company's heraldic devices, were brought

out to the surprise of many of the livery, and placed by the clerk with due solemnity on the heads of the monarch of the feast and his wardens, and they thereupon pledged their subjects in a loving cup of Rhenish wine. The newly-crowned Master of the Girdlers' Company, Mr. John Hulbert, whose name has been rendered conspicuous from his having declined the honours of shrievalty and been mulcted in the fine of four hundred pounds, an archaeological amercement that it would be well to abolish, made some interesting remarks in the course of the evening on the early history of the institution. He had held in his hand that morning a document dated 1464, in which Edward IV. confirmed the privileges granted to the Company by his ancestors Richard II. and Edward III., among which was the following:—In the girdles then worn, silver and copper were used in their fabrication and embroidery, and power was given to the Company to seize all girdles found within the city walls with spurious metals.

Sir Charles Napier will be glad to learn that sufficient care is now taken in the examination of wood admitted to Her Majesty's dockyards. We stated last week, on the authority of a resident in the neighbourhood of Hainault Forest, that there had been mismanagement in the fall of oak this season in that locality, the whole of the trees being left till the spring, when the wood, distended by sap, is rendered comparatively worthless for durable purposes. Our stricture obviously referred only to the trees likely to be used for ship-building. A timber-merchant, in reply to our remarks, writes to 'The Times,' from Epping Forest, in defence of what has been done, asking "if the value of the bark of 14,000 or 15,000 trees is to be lost for the sake of a score or two that may ultimately be used for the navy?" Clearly not, and no proposal so absurd was made. But let everything be done in its right season. Trees, of which the bark is the least part of the value, ought to be cut during winter. The timber-merchant admits the blunder to a certain extent, and we are glad to hear that the proportion of trees cut at a wrong season is so small. What is better, he assures us that these score or two of trees pregnant with dry-rot "will undergo a most careful inspection, and most probably be refused at the dockyards."

A work is announced by Mr. J. B. Davis and Dr. Thurnham, which promises to be of interest both in an ethnological as well as archaeological point of view. It is to be entitled 'Crania Britannica,' and is intended to comprise engravings of crania discovered in the primæval sepulchres of this island, as well as those of the later or Anglo-Saxon period, executed from drawings made from the best preserved skulls in the collections of the authors and those of their friends. No extensive collection of these relics has ever been formed. Tumuli have generally been ransacked solely for the sake of the few objects of interest they contained—the weapons or the personal ornaments of the individual interred. Among the Romans, cremation prevailed to such an extent that the examples of a different description of interment are very unfrequent, and may be generally regarded as of the latest period of their occupation of Britain. The Celtic tumuli and their contents furnish unmistakeable evidence; and the long intervening space between the period to which they belong and the time of the arrival of our pagan ancestors, the Saxons and the Danes, separates them so clearly that the ethnologist may trace the distinction of races with much more certainty than is commonly supposed. "The personal remains of the ancient Britons," say the projectors of this work, "their bones, entombed in barrows over so many districts of these islands, have, until recently, not been objects of attraction even to collectors;—unlike the geologist, who has gathered up and treasured every osteological fragment of the races of animals coming within his domain. It is believed that a sufficient number of these relics have now been exhumed from barrows and other tombs, to enable us not merely to reproduce the most lively and forcible traits of the primæval Celtic hunter or warrior, and his Roman conqueror, suc-

ceeded by Saxon or Angle chieftains and settlers, and, later still, by the Vikings of Scandinavia; but also to indicate the peculiarities which marked the different tribes and races who have peopled the different regions of the British islands."

A circular has been issued by Mr. Charles Buschek, agent in Europe for the American "Exhibition of the Industry of all Nations," containing various official documents, and announcing that the opening of the Exhibition will take place on the 2nd of May, 1853. The Corporation of New York has granted the site of Reservoir Square, for five years, at the nominal rent of a dollar a year, for the erection of the building, which is to be of glass and iron. It is stipulated in the grant that the admission shall at no time exceed fifty cents. An act has been passed by the senate and assembly of New York, incorporating the Association for the Exhibition, the affairs of which are to be managed by a court of eleven directors, to be chosen annually by the stockholders. The eleven directors for the first year are named in the charter, and their names are such as go far to guarantee the success of the undertaking. The directors are to have power to elect the officers of the corporation, including a president, treasurer, secretary, and three inspectors. The capital stock of the Company is to be two hundred thousand dollars, divided into shares of one hundred dollars each, with power to increase the capital to the sum of three hundred thousand dollars. Other regulations relate to the liabilities of the shareholders, the privileges of the corporation, and the nature of the property. The directors are required to assign one or more days for the free admission of the children of the schools of the Public School Society, the Ward Schools, the Orphan Asylums, the Deaf and Dumb Institutions, and other establishments. The proceeds of one day, to be publicly advertised, are required to be given to the Fire Department Fund for the benefit of the widows and orphans of deceased firemen in the cities of New York and Brooklyn. The building is to be considered a bonded warehouse, and all articles will be admitted free of duty, the place to be under the surveillance of the customs. The Association, by resolutions passed at a meeting at New York on July 12th, invite the transmission of articles from Europe and all parts of the world. They undertake to pay the freight and insurance outwards and homewards, between the port of exportation and New York, as well as warehousing, attendance, and the fire insurance while in the building, excepting on such articles as shall be sold or withdrawn from the Exhibition, the freight and insurance of which will be repayable to the Association. The Exhibition is to comprise painting, sculpture, and other objects of the Fine Arts, as well as articles of raw materials and produce, manufactures and machinery. Prizes are to be awarded in the various departments. Forms of application for space, with description of articles proposed to be sent, have this week been issued by Mr. Buschek, who was the Austrian Commissioner to the London Exhibition of 1851. We are glad to find that matters are in train for a show worthy of the United States. The proposal to have the Exhibition at New York in 1852 was injudicious, and the failure of the attempt almost led to the idea being wholly abandoned; but with another year's interval for preparing and maturing the project there is little fear as to its successful execution.

A lecture was delivered on Thursday, at the Hanover Square Rooms, by M. F. Sudré, on his universal musical language, and also on his system of telephony, or acoustic telegraphing. The principle of the universal language is the expression of ideas by the seven musical notes, do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, si, played on any instrument, or spoken, or written, or indicated by signs. By representing the notes on parts of the fingers, the deaf and dumb can communicate by the same method. Since the time of Leibnitz, who proposed the adoption of universal characters to be used for all sciences, as algebraic notation is for mathematics, the subject has received much notice from learned men. Previous to that, George Dalgairns, a Scotchman, and Bishop Wilkins, one of

the originators of the Royal Society, had proposed a philosophical language. But the difficulties of the scheme have hitherto proved insurmountable. M. Sudré's ingenious and pleasant system has obtained high encomium in France, the author having received the crown and medal of the Athénæum of Arts in Paris at the annual meeting in 1845, a commission of the French Institute having also reported favourably of it. Some years ago M. Sudré lectured on the subject in this country, at which time a notice of his system was given in the 'Literary Gazette.' On this occasion he again visits England with a recommendatory letter signed by various members of the Institute. The system is certainly the best that has yet been proposed, and with an interpreter so able as Mdlle. Josephine Hugot, the inventor's niece, the lecture on Thursday gave great satisfaction to the audience. M. Sudré represents that two or three months' study is sufficient for any one of ordinary ability to have perfect command of the language. The acoustic telegraph is an invention likely to prove of more practical and immediate importance, and has been recommended by special commissions in France, named by the ministers both of War and of Marine. Three sounds, sol, do, sol, are alone used, and with these, either by bugle, drum, or cannon, every signal can be perfectly conveyed. The same notes, represented by three lights, white, red, and green, form a system of night signals superior to any hitherto used. Objections to some parts of the system readily occur, but its general ingenuity and utility are undeniable, and the subject deserves the attention of scientific men. M. Sudré's lecture was one of much interest, to which the intelligence and good taste of Mdlle. Hugot not a little contributed.

On Tuesday the Duke of Hamilton, the premier peer of Scotland, and in some ways one of the most conspicuous members of the aristocracy, died at the advanced age of 85. He was born in 1767, and did not attain his dukedom till 1819. As the Marquis of Douglas he sat in Parliament from 1802 till 1806, when he proceeded to St. Petersburg as ambassador. On his return in 1812 he was called to the House of Peers in his father's barony of Dutton. The family is descended from the royal line of Scotland, and the heir represents two dukedoms, two marquises, three earldoms, and eight baronies, besides foreign dignities. In old Scottish history the great part borne by the house of Hamilton is known to every reader. By marriage the family is allied with several of the reigning houses of Europe. The late duke, the tenth of the line, is succeeded by the Marquis of Douglas, who is married to a daughter of the late Grand Duke of Baden, and is first cousin to Louis Napoleon. The Duchess Dowager of Hamilton is the granddaughter of the celebrated Alderman Beckford, of Fonthill Abbey, an alliance suggestive of some interesting reminiscences of a literary kind. The late duke had little pretensions himself to distinction in literature, any more than in politics, but he was an enlightened and generous patron of art and of artists. His collections of paintings and of objects of *virtu* are surpassed by few in this country, many of them having been collected by himself when abroad. At the coronation of Victoria the Duke of Hamilton officiated as Hereditary High Steward of England. His sister, Lady Anne Hamilton, was the favourite friend and companion of Queen Caroline, whose popularity she shared during that exciting period. The late Duke of Hamilton was one of the few English noblemen who enjoyed the confidence and friendship of Napoleon the Great.

The arrangements having been completed between the Royal Observatory at Greenwich and the Electric Telegraph Company, the apparatus for distributing Greenwich mean time through the country will shortly be brought into regular operation. At one o'clock each day the ball raised on the dome of the Telegraph Company's office in the Strand opposite Hungerford-market, now falls by electric action simultaneously with the well-known ball on the Observatory at Greenwich. The Strand ball is visible at great distances, being at an eleva-

tion of 110 feet, and is six feet high, and sixteen in circumference, painted red, with a white belt. The connecting apparatus was constructed under the superintendence of Mr. Edwin Clark, the Company's engineer. An electric dial is also being completed in the centre of the crossing streets opposite the office, by which the time, day and night, will be indicated. The connecting apparatus has for some time been completed, but considerable difficulty has been experienced in its correct working. These difficulties, arising from the disturbance of the electric current and other obstacles in the London transit, have been at length surmounted, to the satisfaction of Mr. Clark and of the Astronomer Royal.

The Court of Directors of the East India Company are about to establish electric telegraph communication in the East on a great scale, lines connecting Calcutta, Agra, Lahore, Bombay, and Madras being projected. Dr. W. B. O'Shaughnessy, one of the most accomplished medical officers in the Bengal service, has been for some time employed in conducting experiments and perfecting the scheme. The mercantile community of Calcutta have put at Dr. O'Shaughnessy's disposal a large sum for the purchase of books and the conduct of his investigations, the gift being also intended as a mark of grateful acknowledgment of his services in a matter so important to the prosperity of India. A line from Diamond Harbour to Calcutta, about forty miles, has for some time been in operation under Dr. O'Shaughnessy's superintendence.

Mr. Joseph Fletcher, one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools, died this week during a temporary absence in North Wales. His reports on the schools under his inspection are valuable documents, containing many judicious remarks as well as a large amount of information on educational subjects. Among British and foreign statisticians Mr. Fletcher was well known, being editor of the 'Statistical Journal,' an office involving much labour, and one of the honorary secretaries of the Statistical Society of London. At the statistical section of the British Association he has for some years acted as secretary, and was one of the most active and useful members of the council. He was a man of much benevolence as well as literary ability, and one of his first public occupations was as secretary of the 'Handloom Inquiry,' and afterwards of the 'Factory Children's Employment' Parliamentary Commissions, in which duties he obtained high reputation. He died at the early age of 39.

Some time ago we announced that a 'Crystal Palace' had been erected at Copenhagen for an exhibition of Scandinavian manufactures. This edifice having been completed, and stocked with articles representing the industry of the three Scandinavian nations, was opened a few days back, with a good deal of pomp, by the King of Denmark, attended by the royal princes, the ministers, and the great dignitaries of the kingdom. The structure is of considerable beauty and extent.

The Indian papers arrived by the last mail state that medical men have observed during seasons when epidemic cholera prevails the magnet is much affected, losing much of its power, and its polarity checked. We are not aware of any effect of this kind having been noticed by European observers, but it is worthy of further investigation, with the other atmospheric phenomena which have attended the prevalence of the disease.

The Manchester Free Public Library has been presented to the Corporation, and is to be opened with great ceremony on the 2nd of September. Lord Shaftesbury, Mr. Dickens, and Sir E. Lytton Bulwer, are announced to take part in the proceedings. Had the opening been fixed three days later, many of our *savans* might have been present on their return from Belfast.

The Geological Society of France is to meet at Metz on the 5th September for an extraordinary session. The Scientific Congress of the same country is to assemble at Toulouse on the 8th September.

A remarkable instance of the mutability of fortune occurred lately in the appearance of Gari-

baldi, the Italian patriot, at Lima, as commander of a Peruvian Guano ship. He was received with great enthusiasm by the people, and has since been offered the command of an expedition against Flores.

The enterprising traveller, Madame Pfeiffer, has arrived at Pontianak in safety, after a fatiguing and dangerous overland journey from Sarawak.

FINE ARTS.

The History of the Painters of all Nations. By M. Charles Blanc (late 'Directeur des Beaux Arts' of France). Translated by Peter Berlyn, with Portraits, &c. &c., executed under the direction of M. Armengaud, of Paris. The entire work edited by Mr. Digby Wyatt. John Cassell.

THE appearance of a work with the above title would inspire the most unmixed satisfaction, were it not that the enormous range suggested by its programme is liable to make the boldest feel a little hesitation, and to check with some natural apprehensions the most sanguine hopes. It is impossible to suppose that the extent of an undertaking adequate to such a high-sounding denomination can have been underrated by the authors, whose names, appearing on the page, are a sufficient guarantee for the intelligence requisite for the due appreciation of the design. The Secretary to the Executive Committee of the Exhibition of 1851 is doubtless familiar with vast undertakings, and the 'Directeur des Beaux Arts' at Paris, during the Administration of 1848, was a respectable, if not the highest possible authority in his department of the government. Yet the amount of knowledge to be produced, the happy assemblage of various talent that will be required, and the spirit of organization that must animate the projectors of so large a scheme, are matters of no trifling moment. For whilst everyone must re-echo the regret expressed by the editor at the limited acquaintance with artistic biography we have been hitherto content to put up with in England, it is necessary that the work which is to supply such a want should be as extensive as the requirement itself—as broad as the chasm it is expected to fill. Nothing less than this would satisfy the English public, or deserve the reward of having, as the editor says, "done the state good service." And we must be allowed to say that it is not to that portion of readers whom Mr. Wyatt describes as a 'railroad-loving body, whose intellectual food must be served to them so that it may be bolted, and yet entail no indigestion,' that a work like this should appeal; the only support worth having in literature is that of persons who read in studies as well as in railway carriages, as much in order to learn and to remember as to wile away time. Else the 'History' runs the risk of sharing the fate of other 'Literature for the Rail'—namely, that of being shovelled away into obscurity after its month of ephemeral existence. But we may do the editor the justice to say, that his performance is better than his intentions. The Life of Murillo, whilst it certainly involves no speculations which the simplest mind may not enter upon with perfect safety, is yet not quite so fragmentary and condensed as to come up to the required desideratum, namely, that guidebook style of composition described above, which the English intellect is supposed chiefly to appetite and fatten upon. It is, in truth, a flowing and pleasant translation of M. Blanc's treatise; and the latter being essentially French in its every paragraph, is, considering the subject and its manner of treatment, none the worse for being so. The descriptions are everywhere graphic and lively in the extreme; the charm of gaiety and spirit is communicated to every detail. Amongst the pictorial criticisms are to be found a few original and shrewd observations; and in the description of the sentiment of the pictures we have the salt piquancy of the French humour, its keenness, its dash, and its irreverence.

The error which prevails in all our received histories of Murillo's life, as to the place and date of his birth, is here corrected; and it appears from a Spanish authority, grounded on the certificate of baptism, that he was born, not at Pílas, in 1613,

but at Seville itself, on the 1st of January, 1618. After describing his tutelage under his uncle, Juan de Castillo, the author refers to the remarkable but long exploded mistake of Sandrart, who states that he visited America in his youth. That he never travelled beyond Madrid is proved by the silence of all his countrymen who have written on the subject. The influence of the style of Vandyke upon Murillo, produced by the intimacy of the latter with Pedro de Moya, a pupil of the great Flemish painter, seems to have mainly engendered in him that earnest desire to inspect the originals which made him contemplate visiting England, and which actually led him to the capital of Spain. Here his reception by, and intercourse with, the great Velasquez, forms almost the only important epoch of his life; and no circumstance of his existence so forcibly arrests the imagination, or so well deserves the efforts of commemorative art, as the introduction of that young, eager, and uninformed genius to the treasures of the royal galleries, under the guidance of the splendid and courtly officer of Philip IV., himself a master in art, and noble in every sense in which humanity can be dignified. It was not till the return of Murillo to his native town, where the remainder of his life was spent, that his own peculiar genius worked itself free from the influences of Titian, Vandyke, Ribera, and Velasquez, and became itself a leading star in the art firmament. The narrative of his life from this period is a simple record of an existence in which "neither idleness nor weariness found a place. In a city peopled with monks, with picturesque mendicants and enthusiastic devotees—in a city filled with mysterious churches—lit up, as Lafontaine would say, by the eyes of Andalusian beauties, Murillo passed his time in copying the inhabitants of earth, and inventing those of heaven. His whole world was summed up in the city of Seville. On the road which he had to traverse, from the parish of Santa Cruz, in which he resided, to the cathedral of Seville, or else to the convent of the Capuchins outside the walls, he lost nothing that occurred to attract his notice. If he met the licentiate Alonso Herrera and Juan Lopez y Talavan, he was struck with their fine heads, and he introduced them under the names of Saint Leander and of Saint Isidore into some devotional picture. Without the necessity of travelling, or of crossing the seas, he could handle a thousand different subjects, and paint in every branch of the art—landscapes, flowers, sea-pieces, portraits, history, and miracles; miserable humanity cowering on the pavement, and beatified mortals wafted through the regions of Paradise."

The autumn and winter session of the department of practical art at Marlborough House is to commence on the 1st September. Classes will be formed on the following subjects:—Painting on porcelain, conducted by Mr. J. Simpson; wood engraving, for female students only, by Miss Waterhouse, under superintendence of Mr. Thompson; chromo-lithography, by Mr. Hanhart; artistic anatomy, comprising drawing, painting, and modelling, by Mr. J. H. Townsend; practical construction, architectural details and perspective, by Mr. C. J. Richardson. Lectures during the session will be delivered by Professor Lindley on the representation of vegetable forms; by Dr. Lyon Playfair, on the principles of chemistry in the manufacture of pottery; Mr. Owen Jones, on principles of decoration; Mr. Wornum, on renaissance ornament; Mr. Thompson, on wood engraving; Signor Brucciani, on moulding. Modelling and designing classes at Somerset House for male students, and Gower-street for female students, will be formed. The museum of ornamental art is now open to the public in the beginning of the week, and for students on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. The Queen has been graciously pleased to order some of the finest specimens of Sevres china from Buckingham Palace to be transferred for a time to Marlborough House, for the use of the porcelain painting class.

The French journals state that a painting, by Titian, representing a Dominican monk, has just

been found in an old box in the Church of Longwy, in the department of the Orne. It bears the painter's signature.

A statue to Lesueur, the ancient composer, has just been erected at Amiens, his native place. In addition to some esteemed oratorios and religious pieces of considerable merit, he has left two operas called *La Caverne* and *Les Bardes*, which are also admired, though seldom performed.

MUSIC.

M. JULLIEN'S *Pietro il Grande* was at length brought out at the ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA on Tuesday, the delay having added to the public curiosity concerning an event so novel. The performance has proved that M. Jullien is capable of higher employment than a leader of light Terpsichorean harmony, and master of the revels and masques of his majesty the People. He has done much, by his monster concerts and other entertainments, to raise the popular taste, and the appreciation of the best kind of orchestral music. For the higher sphere of the opera he has now asserted his qualifications, and we have little doubt of his having a prosperous career in such undertakings, if he gives himself to diligent study, and does not refuse to attend to the suggestions of those experienced in operatic criticism. The success of this first attempt, in spite of various drawbacks, was most auspicious. The defects were those of taste rather than of ability, and the faults were such as judicious counsel and increased care may to a great extent remove. The original English libretto was composed by Mr. Desmond Ryan, the Italian words being adapted by Signor Manfredo Maggioni. The story is taken from some of the well-known episodes in the life of Peter the Great, with a little apocryphal matter, allowable for dramatic effect. There are three acts, in the first of which, *Peter* (Tamberlik) in disguise, and several of his general officers, are labouring as ship-builders in the dockyard of Zaandam, or Saardem, as it is more usually called. *Catherine* (Mdle. Zerr), a vivandière in the dockyard, beloved by *Zeinberg* (Rommi), a shipwright, attracts the affection of the Czar, and his love is warmly reciprocated. *Zeinberg's* jealousy leads him to two attempts upon *Peter's* life, once by violent attack, and again by assassination, in which he is joined by *Rossomak* (Herr Formes), Hetman, or chief of the Cossacks. *Rossomak* has also been rejected by *Catherine*, and jealousy is added to an ancient hatred of the Czar, against whom he had conspired as a leader of the Strelitzes or Russian Janissaries, and had been obliged to fly among the Cossacks on the conspiracy being discovered. The murderous plot of *Zeinberg* and *Rossomak* is defeated by *Catherine*, who had watched them, and, ringing the alarm-bell, drew together the workmen, who are only prevented from laying violent hands on *Zeinberg*, by *Peter* declaring himself the Czar, and demanding his life. The act closes with *Peter's* taking farewell of *Catherine*, and departing in a ship to his own country. The second act has its opening scene in the camp before Pultava or Poltowa, the Swedish army being intrenched in the distance. *Catherine*, who has come in search of *Peter* after his departure from Zaandam, meets with a detachment of the Swedish army. She learns that the Swedes and Turks have joined forces, and are about to attack the Russian camp. With this intelligence she hastens to *Peter's* tent, and there obtaining from him some jewels of great value, she returns to the Vizier, and presenting them as offerings from the Czar, induces him to sign a treaty and withdraw his troops. Charles XII., unsupported by his allies, attacks the Russian camp, and after various fortunes of the fight is defeated. *Catherine* is in vain sought after the battle. The third act is in Moscow, where *Catherine* arrives during a snow-storm, and, overcome with fatigue, falls down within sight of the Kremlin, the imperial palace. *Rossomak* and some of his officers, who had been banished to Siberia for treason, have escaped, and have come to Moscow to assassinate the emperor. Meeting in a lonely place of the Kremlin, to mature their

plans, they are overheard by *Catherine*, who endeavours to reach the palace with the tidings. There is a *fête* that night, and the emperor has chosen his empress from the daughters of the Boyars. Tormented with regretful remembrance of *Catherine*, who he fears has sacrificed herself for his love, he is expressing his grief to *General Lefort* (Tagliafico), when they hear cries of distress. *Lefort* goes out to see the cause, and bears back the apparently lifeless body of *Catherine*. Restored to animation, she discloses the plot, and the emperor is prepared. *Rossomak* enters, and on presenting a petition, is about to stab the Czar, when he seizes the assassin's arm, and turns the poignard into his heart. The scene closes with the enthronization of *Catherine*. The spectacle of the drama is of the most gorgeous description. In the first act the dockyard scenery is good, and the arrival of the ship and the movements of the crew are managed with skilful effect. In the second act there is an exaggerated parade of military effect. A vast variety of troops appear, with military bands and standards, and "all the pomp and circumstance of war." The sublimity of the display verges on the ridiculous, especially when the cavalry advance with the measured tramp of Astley's and the Hippodrome. The military effect of this scene would be better gained with less parade. The scenery of the last act is in very different taste. The view of the Kremlin, with its festive lights, and the bleak storm outside, is well represented. The general character of M. Jullien's music may be described in few words. With little originality and not much melody, the whole opera is pervaded by a spirit of liveliness and vigour which secures attention and engages applause. Some of the choruses are very animated, and several passages occur of peculiar merit. There is too much straining, however, after startling effects, and these sometimes sought by violence of sound, rather than variation of sense. A little more quietness would be in many parts a vast improvement. Of particular passages, the following are among those most worthy of especial notice:—in act i., the Cavatina in scene 4, which Mdle. Zerr gave with much taste, the Madrigal Chorus in the same scene, the National Hymn, beginning "Di Moscovia eletti figli," full of martial spirit, as is also the war-song in the beginning of act ii. The quartette in the second scene is very good, and was well given by Mdle. Zerr, Tamberlik, Formes, and Tagliafico. The duet of *Catherine* and *Peter*, a little further on, is good, but far too long. A septette, in which six of the Russian generals join the Czar in his dictation of the orders of battle, was an interesting passage. Tamberlik, who finished with *Calt*, sang admirably. The march in the battle scene is an animated piece, but rather loud and confused in some parts. The chorus of nuns in the third act had a very pleasing effect, especially as a relief from the orchestral clangour, and it would be well to give more prominence to that passage. The ballet at the dockyard *fête* in the first act, and the mazourka in the Kremlin, gave scope for the display of dancing, of which the chief merit consists in its being appropriate to the nationality of the scenes. The performance of the Russian *danceuse*, Mdle. Advianoff, was deservedly applauded. The waltz air in the first ballet was in M. Jullien's happiest style. It remains only to say a few words on the principal performers, all of whom are well known, and of high reputation in their peculiar styles. Tamberlik as *Pietro* was admirable, and took all possible pains both with the acting and singing. The part is one requiring no small efforts, physical as well as artistic, and by Signor Tamberlik's unflagging energy the spirit of the opera was sustained through its prodigious length. Herr Formes was in excellent voice, and made a most appropriate *Rossomak*. Signors Tagliafico, Stigelli, Soldi, Polonini, and the others, generally bore well the parts assigned to them, and some passages were delivered with great effect. But rarely has an opera been made to depend so much on two or three characters. With the exception of occasional choruses, one of the best of which was by a choir of nuns behind

the scenes, there is no female voice in the opera except *Catherine*, the sole prominence of whose character will prove a severe trial to whoever bears the part. Mdlle. Anna Zerr acquitted herself admirably, throughout the whole piece passionate and graceful, and deserving the applause elicited both by her singing and acting. The choruses were in good order, and only in a few places was the need of additional rehearsal noticeable. Over the efficient orchestra M. Jullien presided with anxious earnestness. The calls for the composer and leader, at the close of the first act, were hearty and general, and Signor Tamberlik and Mdlle. Anna Zerr well merited the praise so warmly bestowed.

On Thursday the opera was repeated with increased success, the result of judicious improvements on the first performance. The recitatives, some of which had been distressingly long, were curtailed. The battle scene was much modified, and the horses and other adjuncts dispensed with. The whole performance was shortened by nearly an hour. In the management of the orchestra there was also improvement. For these changes M. Jullien deserved the applause which he received at the close from a crowded audience.

The Opéra Comique and Grand Opera were thrown open to the public on Saturday *gratis*. They were filled from top to bottom. The spectators were of a very different class from what is usually seen at these aristocratic houses. But not only did they behave perfectly well, but they manifested profound attention to the pieces performed, and appeared to appreciate fully the more striking parts. The musical education of the lower class of the Parisian people has made wonderful progress since the Revolution of 1789. Gratuitous performances were frequently given after that event, and especially in 1793; but the 'patriots' knew so little of music, that they thought, that when three or four performers sang together, it was to get through the piece sooner. On one occasion in 1793, at the Grand Opera, they positively refused to allow a concerted piece to be executed. "*A la lanterne! à la lanterne!*" they yelled at the terrified performers. "May I ask what is your pleasure, citizens?" said a performer, stepping forward, and really not knowing what the tumult was about. "I'll tell you," roared a brawny butcher, in his shirt sleeves, from one of the principal boxes; "you think that because we came in here without paying, we may be treated with disrespect; and so three of you sing together to get done quickly! But you shan't treat us so, aristocrats, *muscadins, canaille!* Sing one at a time, or we'll hang you *à la lanterne!*"

A little opera, called the *Les Deux Jakes*, has been produced at the Opéra Comique. The music is by Planard, and though not first-rate, and in parts too full of pretension, is sprightly and pleasing.

THE DRAMA.

MR. DICKENS and his amateur dramatic company of artists and literati are preparing for a tour in the provinces, which will doubtless add substantially to the funded capital of the 'Guild of Literature and Art.' Sir E. B. Lytton's play of *Not so Bad as we Seem* has been judiciously reduced to three acts, and a hearty appeal in the cause of amusement and charity is to be made with it to the good people of Nottingham, Sheffield, Newcastle, Sunderland, Liverpool, and Manchester, at which last-mentioned place the celebrities will be present at the opening of the Free Library. Those who know the absolute value of time, per hour, to the successful literary man and artist, will not be slow to estimate the munificent gift which these gentlemen are freely presenting towards the support of this good work.

The principal incident in the theatrical history of Paris of the past week has been the throwing open of the Théâtre Français and other houses, for gratuitous performances, on Saturday, on the

occasion of the *fête*. For hours before the doors were to open, hundreds of persons were in waiting; and when admission was given, the theatres were filled with incredible rapidity. The great majority of the spectators were of course of the lowest class, but they behaved with exemplary propriety.

At the Gymnase a three-act vaudeville, called the *Avocats*, by Dumanoir and Clairville, has been brought out. It is a clever piece of satire on gentlemen learned in the law, and is written with more care than is generally displayed in a vaudeville. It is, in fact, a comedy, and a good one. The Cirque has favoured its public with a grand fairy piece with not fewer than twenty-two tableaux! And the Gaité, in contradiction to its name, has given a terrific melodrama, in five acts, called the *Chambre Rouge*, by Theodore Anne.

M. Ahlberg, the Nestor of dramatic performers in Sweden, died a few days ago at Stockholm, aged ninety-one. It was he who first performed the principal part in the celebrated Swedish opera, *Gustavus Wasa*.

The performances of the London theatres have been confined, without change, to the Haymarket (Adelphi company) and Olympic.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Paris, Aug. 18.

PARISIAN *fêtes* generally possess a certain artistic character; and therefore we are not going out of our province in mentioning that on Sunday last all the worthy Parisians were in motion, and hosts of foreigners and provincials poured into the French capital, to see the *fêtes* which were to take place, partly in honour of Napoleon the Great, and a good deal for the glorification of Napoleon the Little, who now dominates in France. The day was selected because it was what the French call Napoleon's *fête*—that is, the day set apart by the Catholic church to the saint after whom he was named. This saint is of no great renown in ecclesiastical history; and there is an ugly story about him, to the effect that he was only thrust into the Calendar as a compliment to his extraordinary namesake—

"Who, born no king, made monarchs draw his car."

The *fêtes* of Sunday were destined to be the grandest ever seen in Paris; the column in the Place Vendôme was to have been one mass of brilliant light; a huge eagle was to have blazed on the top of the Arc de Triomphe at the Barrière de l'Etoile; the electric light was to have effected miracles of beauty; the boulevards were to have been turned into a fairy garden; Vauxhall was for ever to have been cast into the shade, by the dazzling magnificence of illuminations; and there was to have been a display of fireworks, representing the passage of Bonaparte the elder over Mount St. Bernard, of such gorgeous splendour as to be unequalled in pyrotechnic annals. But, alas! the word of promise, though kept to the eye, was broken in reality. The gas at the column wouldn't burn; the eagle couldn't be got up; the electric light declined to shine; the illuminations looked melancholy; and Mount St. Bernard was blown away by the violence of the wind. Altogether the day was a dismal one; and the hundreds of thousands who went to see the sights looked as dull as decorous undertakers at a rich man's funeral. A ball to the market-women had to be postponed to Tuesday, owing to the wind having carried away the canvas roof of a temporary building erected for it; and on Tuesday, just after it began, the rain came down in torrents, and poured through the canvas on to the dancers. Never was such a succession of petty disasters! A Roman of old would have considered them fearful portents of some approaching vengeance of the gods;—and perhaps they may so turn out for Louis Napoleon Bonaparte.

It was announced some time ago that the Académie Française had offered a prize for the best essay on English parliamentary eloquence. The Minister of Public Instruction (the same worthy who lately issued a decree solemnly reprimanding a professor for having written bad poetry) has ob-

jected to parliamentary eloquence being discussed under the anti-parliamentary régime, which, for her sins, at present dominates unfortunate France. The Academy has accordingly withdrawn the prize. In this affair we have a new and ludicrous, yet lamentable proof, of the abject state to which literature and its professors are now reduced. The Academy is a body of the most profound writers and thinkers France possesses:—Guizot, Villemain, Cousin, De Rémusat, Thiers, Hugo, Lamartine, De Musset, and Montalembert are amongst its members; and yet it is not even allowed the liberty of selecting the subjects for its own prizes—it is obliged to obey the orders of an upstart of whom no one ever heard until he chanced to gain Bonaparte's favour.

The news respecting literary treaties is not favourable this week. The States-General of Holland have unanimously rejected that which was recently concluded between that country and France. The reason is not stated, but whatever it may be, the result is to be greatly deplored. With Belgium, also, the negotiations for a commercial treaty, in which the annihilation of piracy was to form one of the principal conditions, have been broken off. Prussia, too, manifests a stronger disinclination than ever to enter into the views of France on this subject.

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60	1200	160 0 0	70 0 0	39 9 3	30 10 9
70	1400	26 16 0	9 0 0	5 2 9	3 17 8
80	1600	23 11 0	10 7 11	6 13 1	3 14 10
90	1800	64 4 0	38 15 0	24 13 5	14 1 7
100	2000	53 10 0	27 4 2	17 7 0	9 17 2

E. F. LEEKES, Secretary.

IMPERIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY,

1, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON.

THOMAS NEWMAN HUNT, Esq., Chairman

JOHN MORSELEY PALMER, Esq., Deputy-Chairman.

A NEW SCALE OF PREMIUMS on Insurances for the whole

term of life has recently been adopted, by which a material reduc-

tion has been made at all ages below 50 years.

FOUR-FIFTHS, or 80 per cent. of the Profits, are assigned to

Policyholders, and may be applied to increase the sum in-

stantly, to an immediate payment in Cash; or to the reduction and

ultimate extinction of future Premiums.

ONE-THIRD of the Premium on Insurances of £500 and up-

wards for the whole term of life, may remain as a debt upon the

Policy, to be paid off at convenience: by which means £1500 may

be insured for the present outlay otherwise required for £1000.

LOANS.—The Directors will lend Sums of £50 and upwards on

the security of Policies effected with this Company for the whole

term of life, when they have acquired an adequate value.

SECURITY.—Those who effect Insurances with this Company

are protected by its large Subscribed Capital from the risk incurred

in Insurances without participation in Profits may be effected

at reduced rates.

SAMUEL INGALL, Actuary.

UNDER THE ESPECIAL PATRONAGE OF
HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN,
AND
FIELD MARSHAL
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT, K.G., K.T.,
K.P., G.C.B., and G.C.M.G.

THE ROYAL NAVAL, MILITARY, AND

EAST INDIA LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, Established
A.D. 1837, for GENERAL ASSURANCE ON LIVES, 13, WATERLOO
PLACE, LONDON.

Colonel Sir Frederic Smith, M.P., K.H., F.R.S., R.E., Chairman.

James Frederick Nugent Daniell, Esq., Deputy Chairman.

Admiral of the Fleet, the Right Hon. Sir G. Cockburn, G.C.B.

General Sir Thomas Bradford, G.C.B., G.C.H.

Lieut.-General Sir Hew D. Ross, K.C.B., Deputy Adjutant-Gen-
eral Royal Artillery.

Capt. Sir Geo. Back, R.N., F.R.S.

Lieut.-Gen. Taylor, C.B., E.I.C.S.

Lieut.-Gen. Edw. Wynyard, C.B.

Bankers—Messrs. Coutts and Co., 59, Strand.

Physician—Robert Lee, Esq., M.D., F.R.S., 4, Savile Row.

Counsel—J. Measure, Esq., 4, Serle Street, Lincoln's Inn-Fields.

Solicitors—Messrs. Garrard and James, 13, Suffolk Street,
Pall Mall East.

ACTUARY—John Finlaison, Esq., President of the Institute of
Actuaries.

ASSURANCES ARE GRANTED upon the lives of persons in
every profession and station in life, and for every part of the
world, with the exception of the Western Coast of Africa within
the Tropics.

The Rates of Premiums are constructed upon Sound Principles
with reference to every Colony, and by payment of a moderate
addition to the Home Premium, in case of increase of risk, persons
assured in this office may change from one climate to another,
without forfeiting their Policies.

FOUR-FIFTHS of the PROFITS are divided amongst the Assured.

Table I. exhibits the necessary Premiums for the Assurance of
£100 on a Single Life.

Age.	For One Year.	For Seven Years.	Annual Pre- mium for the whole of Life, without Profits.	Annual Pre- mium for the whole of Life, with Profits.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
15	0 14 9	0 16 6	1 9 10	1 15 2
20	0 17 7	0 19 7	1 13 11	1 19 5
25	1 1 1	1 3 0	1 18 7	2 4 3
30	1 4 4	1 6 7	2 3 11	2 9 9
35	1 8 2	1 10 6	2 10 6	2 16 6
40	1 12 0	1 14 2	2 18 3	3 4 5
45	1 15 9	2 0 5	3 9 3	3 15 7
50	2 4 6	2 10 4	4 3 3	4 9 9
55	2 15 1	3 3 4	5 0 10	5 7 6
60	3 11 0	4 5 11	6 5 6	6 12 6

JOSEPH CARTWRIGHT BRETTELL, Secretary.

LIFE ASSURANCE.**LAW PROPERTY ASSURANCE AND TRUST**

SOCIETY, 30, Essex Street, Strand, London; and 19, Princess
Street, Manchester.

Subscribed Capital, £250,000, in 5000 Shares of £50 each.

LONDON BOARD.

DIRECTORS: Ralph T. Brockman, Esq. James Macaulay, Esq.
Benj. Chandler, Jun., Esq. Henry Paull, Esq.
Edward W. Cox, Esq. Robert Young, Esq.

AUDITORS—E. E. P. Kelsey, Esq., Salisbury; James Hutton, Esq.,
Moorgate Street.

BANKERS—London and County Bank, 21, Lombard Street.

STANDING COUNSEL—Henry Stevens, Esq., 7, New Square,
Lincoln's Inn.

CONSULTING ACTUARY—Francis G. P. Neison, Esq., 25, Pall Mall.

MEDICAL OFFICER—Dr. McCann, Parliament Street.

SOLICITOR—William Colley, Esq., 16, Bucklersbury.

PROCTOR—H. Pitcher, Esq., Doctors' Commons.

ACTUARY AND SECRETARY—William Neison, Esq., F.R.S.

MANCHESTER BOARD.

DIRECTORS: Nicholas Earle, Esq. Thomas Taylor, Esq., Norfolk
Isaac Hall, Esq. Street.

W. H. Partington, Esq. G. B. Withington, Esq.
James Street, Esq. Thomas Whitlow, Esq.

BANKERS—Sir Benjamin Heywood, Bart., and Co.

COUNSEL—J. P. Lake, Esq., 4, Town Hall Buildings, Cross Street.

PHYSICIAN—J. L. Bardsley, Esq., M.D., 8, Chatham Street,
Piccadilly.

SURGEON—R. H. McKeand, Esq., 5, Oxford Street, St. Peter's.

SURVEYORS—Mr. Edward Corbett, Mr. William Radford, and
Mr. Edward Nicholson.

AGENTS—Messrs. Dunn and Smith, 19, Princess Street.

SECRETARY—W. H. Partington, Esq.

This Society is established to apply the principle of Assurance
to Property as well as to Life; and its business consists of—

The Assurance of Defective and Unmarketable Titles, rendering
them absolute and perfect.

The Assurance of Copyholds, Lifeholds, and Leaseholds, thereby
making them equal to, or even better than Freeholds, for all pur-
poses of sale or mortgage.

The redemption of Loans and Mortgages, and guaranteeing their
absolute repayment within a given period.

Increased and Immediate Annuities granted upon Healthy as
well as Diseased Lives.

The Fidelity of Clerks, Servants, and others guaranteed upon
the payment of a small annual premium, and a reduction of nearly
one-half is made when a Life Assurance is combined with the
Fidelity Guarantee Policy.

Life Assurances effected for the whole term of life, or for a term
of years, and the premiums can be paid yearly, half-yearly, or
quarterly.

Endowment and Education Assurances and Annuities granted;
the premiums can be paid upon the returnable or non-returnable
system, in case of death before attaining the age agreed upon.

Immediate Annuities, or increased incomes, granted in exchange
for Reversionary Interests.

Whole World Policies granted, and all Policies issued by this
Society are Indisputable, except in cases of fraud.

Every information furnished, free of expense, by applying to

WILLIAM NEISON, Esq., Actuary and Secretary,
30, Essex Street, Strand, London.

AGENTS WANTED.

BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY,

1, Princes Street, Bank, London.

Established August 1, 1837.—Empowered by Special Act of
Parliament, 4 Vict., cap. 9.

Chairman—Colonel ROBERT ALEXANDER, Blackheath Park.

ADVANTAGES OF THIS INSTITUTION.**INCREASING RATES OF PREMIUM.**

A Table especially adapted to the securing of Loans or Debts,
and to all other cases where a Policy may be required for a tem-
porary purpose only, but which may be kept up, if necessary,
throughout the whole term of life.

HALF-CREDIT RATES OF PREMIUM.

Credit given for half the amount of the First Seven Annual Pre-
miums, the amount of the unpaid Half-Premiums being deducted
from the sum assured when the Policy becomes a claim.

SUM ASSURED PAYABLE DURING LIFE.

The amount payable at the death of the Assured, if he die before
attaining the age of sixty, but to the assured himself, if he attain
that age, thus combining a provision for old age with an assurance
upon life.

ORPHAN'S ENDOWMENT BRANCH.

Established for the purpose of affording to parents and others
the means of having children educated and started in life, by
securing annuities, to commence at the parents' death, and to be
paid until a child, if a son, shall attain his 21st year, or, if a
daughter, her 25th year of age.

These Annuities are at any time commutable for their full value,
if a ready money capital is required for a marriage portion, or on
entering into business or a profession.

BRITANNIA MUTUAL LIFE ASSOCIATION,

1, Princes Street, Bank, London.

Empowered by Her Majesty's Royal Letters Patent.

Annual division of profits—applied in reduction of the current
year's premium.

Policy holders entitled to participate in the profits after pay-
ment of five or seven annual premiums according to the table of
rates selected.

Premiums charged for every three months' difference of age—
not, as is usually the case, for every whole year only.

Half credit policies granted on terms unusually favourable to
the assured, the amount of half premiums for which credit is
given, being liquidated out of the profits.

At the Annual General Meeting on the 27th April last, a reduc-
tion of 30 per cent. was made in the present year's premium on all
policies of five or seven years' standing.

A Board of Directors is attendance daily at 2 o'clock.

Age of the assured in every case admitted in the policy.

Medical attendants remunerated in all cases for their reports.

(PROPRIETARY.) (MUTUAL.)

Extract from the Half Credit Rates of Pre- Extract from Table with Participation

mium. in Profits, after Seven Yearly Pay-
ments.

Age.	Half Premium during First Seven Years.	Whole (Annual) Premium for Re- mainder of Life.	Age.	Annual Pre- mium.	Half- Yearly Pre- mium.	Quar- terly Pre- mium.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Yrs. Mths.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
25	0 19 7	1 19 2	30	0	2 7 3	1 4 2 0 12 3
30	1 1 9	2 3 6	3	2 7 6	1 4 4 0 12 4	
35	1 4 11	2 9 10	6	2 7 10	1 4 6 0 12 5	
40	1 9 2	2 18 4	9	2 8 2	1 4 8 0 12 6	
45	1 14 10	3 9 8	40	0	3 3 0	1 12 3 0 16 5
50	2 2 6	4 5 0	3	3 3 6	1 12 6 0 16 7	
55	2 12 9	5 5 6	6	3 4 1	1 12 10 0 16 9	
60	3 6 8	6 13 4	9	3 4 7	1 13 1 0 16 10	

E. R. FOSTER, Resident Director.

ANDREW FRANCIS, Secretary.

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION FOR

LIFE ASSURANCE.

The only Office in which the benefit of Mutual Assurance can be
obtained at Moderate Premiums.

PREMIUMS at early and middle ages about a fourth lower than
in the other Mutual Offices, so that the sum required in them, say
at age 30, to secure £1000, would secure £1230 in this.

PROFITS.—The whole are divisible among the Assured, on a
principle at once safe, equitable, and favourable to good Lives—
the surplus being reserved for those Members whose Premiums,
with accumulated interest, amount to the sums in their Policies;
in other words, for those by whose longer contributions alone it
has been created.

Annual Premium to secure £100, with Profits, at Death:—

Age 20	25	30	35	40	45	50
£1 15 8	1 18 0	2 1 6	2 6 10	2 14 9	3 5 9	4 1 7

Or the Premiums may be made to cease after a limited number
of payments. Those payable during 21 years only will be found
nearly the same as most participating offices require for the whole
of life.

PROGRESS.—Since the Institution of the Society in 1837, up-
wards of 5670 Policies have been issued, covering assurances
amounting to nearly Two Millions and a Half. The whole affairs
are in the most prosperous condition, as shown by the Annual
Reports, which, with Prospectus, Tables of Premiums, and every
information, may be obtained free on application.

LONDON BRANCH, 12, MOORGATE STREET.

GEORGE GRANT, Resident Secretary.

A CLEAR COMPLEXION. — GODFREY'S

EXTRACT OF ELDER FLOWERS is strongly recom-
mended for Softening, Improving, Beautifying, and Preserving
the SKIN, and giving it a blooming and charming appearance,
being at once a most fragrant perfume and delightful cosmetic.

It will completely remove Tan, Sun-burn, Redness, &c., and by its
balsamic and healing qualities, render the skin soft, pliable, and
free from dryness, scurf, &c., clear it from every humour, pimple,
or eruption; and by continuing its use only for a short time, the
skin will become and continue soft and smooth, and the complexion
perfectly clear and beautiful.—Sold in bottles, price 2s. 9d., with
directions for using it, by all Medicine Vendors and Perfumers.

JOHN MORTLOCK'S CHINA and EARTHEN-

WARE BUSINESS is CARRIED ON in OXFORD STREET

only. The premises are the most extensive in London, and con-
tain an ample assortment of every description of goods of the first
manufacturers. A great variety of dinner services at four guineas
each, cash.—250, Oxford Street, near Hyde Park.

EAGLE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The annual general meeting of the proprietors was held last week at Radley's Hotel, New Bridge Street, Blackfriars, to receive the report of the Directors as to the progress of the Company during the year ending the 30th of June last, and also as to the result of the quinquennial investigation, and the bonus to be thereon declared; to elect a Director in the room of the Hon. J. C. Talbot, Q.C., deceased, and an Auditor in the room of Mr. T. G. Sambrooke, who goes out by rotation; and for other business.

Owing to the melancholy decease of Mr. Talbot, the Chairman of the Board, Mr. Peacock, the Vice-Chairman, presided. The advertisement calling the meeting having been read by the Actuary.

The Chairman opened the proceedings by expressing the profound regret with which he, in common with all connected with the Company, regarded the loss they had sustained in the recent death of their late most excellent and able Chairman, the Hon. Mr. Talbot. All who knew him were aware how well qualified he was to be the Chairman of an Institution like this. His talents were well known; his firmness, decision, and judgment exceeded all that he had ever witnessed in a public man. Their loss, then, in the death of such a man, was proportionably great; and though they must bow to it with the best grace they could, they all felt that it would be long before they would be able to put such a man in the chair of the Company as the late Mr. Talbot. With respect to the business of the present meeting, the Directors were anxious that the proprietors should have as satisfactory a report on the state and prospects of the Company presented to them as possible; and all he had to say was, that he hoped they would find it satisfactory: at all events, if they did not, they ought to find it satisfactory, for it was founded on fact; there was no cooking in it; their excellent friend, the Actuary, had been indefatigable for months past in endeavouring to get a correct view of every item, account, and figure appertaining to the Company, and he would bring the results of his labours before them. He would show them that their establishment was progressing. With a little more assistance from their friends, they would be able to make more head than they had yet done. Looking over the list of proprietors, it was really astonishing that so few had lent them a helping hand to get insurances, or had insured themselves. He trusted this matter would be looked to in future. Mr. Jellicoe would now read the report, and any further explanation that might be required would be readily given; but he thought they would all agree that the report was a very satisfactory one.

The Actuary then read the report, which was as follows:—

REPORT.

"The first quinquennial investigation of the liabilities of the Eagle Company since its junction with the Protector, in 1847, is an event which the Directors, and no doubt yourselves, regard with much interest. It will now for the first time be seen to what extent that arrangement has been advantageous, and how far the favourable anticipations which were entertained when it was originally entered into have been actually realised. Before they proceed, however, to lay before you the result of this inquiry, it will be proper to advert briefly to the transactions of the financial year just concluded, and with this view they beg your attention to the following report, received from your auditors:—

"The Auditors' report was here read, from which it appeared, that the income of the year from new premiums was £3947 4s. 2d.; from renewal premiums, £90,670 4s. 5d.; and from interest, £31,433 19s. The claims were, £60,177 9s. 4d.; the amount allowed for surrender of assurances, £4706 4s. 4d.; the expenses, £5683 19s. 5d.; and the total assets, £738,884 17s. 11d.

"This statement differs in nothing very materially from those which have been submitted to you during the last two or three years, save as regards the amount of claims on decease of lives assured. This the Directors are happy to say is less, as compared with that of the previous year, by the sum of £23,513 12s. 3d. On the other hand, the premiums on new assurances are greater by upwards of £600; the amounts in the two years being, respectively, £5339 13s. 9d. and £5947 4s. 2d.

"As the transactions of the year will be necessarily included in the review to be taken of the quinquennial interval just terminated, your Directors will not detain you further with this report, but proceeding at once to the more important business of the meeting, will now request your attention to the following report received from your Actuary:—

"ACTUARY'S REPORT.

"To the Directors of the Eagle Insurance Company.

"Gentlemen,—In conformity with the regulation adopted at the annual general meeting in 1847, by which it was ordered that thenceforth the surplus should be determined and divided quinquennially instead of septennially, as theretofore, an investigation was commenced early in the present year as to the condition of the various assets of the Company, and the nature of the very numerous assurance contracts which it has entered into, so as to determine, as soon after the 30th June as possible, the liabilities existing under them, and the precise position of the Company's affairs at that date. This portion of the work is now completed, and I have the honour to submit the following as the result of it.

It appears that the assurances in force in the Eagle Company on the 30th June, 1847, were 2684, assuring £1,827,030. And paying premiums of £38,703, whilst those added by the junction with the Protector and another small Assurance Company, consisted of 1315, assuring £1,005,469. And paying premiums of £34,575. The number effected since is 1299, assuring £806,956. And paying premiums of £29,695. These together make a total of 5,298, assuring £3,639,475. And paying premiums of £122,975. Deducting the number lapsed during the five years by decease of the lives assured, and other causes, there remained in force on the 30th June last 3914, assuring £2,723,512. And paying premiums of £92,759, the number of each class being as exhibited in the schedule annexed to this report.

"A careful and rigorous estimate has been made of the liability as regards the sums and previous additions guaranteed under all these contracts, and also of the value of the premiums payable in respect of them, and a similar process had been gone through with regard to the re-assurances effected with other companies, the number and particulars of which appear in the foregoing schedule. The several items constituting the assets of the Company have also been carefully revised, and due allowances made for any changes tending to increase or diminish their value. The result of all these operations will be seen in the following statement,

which exhibits the total value of the Company's assets and liabilities, as they existed on the 30th June last:—

ASSETS.			£	s.	d.
Crs.					
Assets of the Company as shown by the Auditor's Report			738,884	17	11
Present value of £92,759 8s. 3d. per annum receivable in premiums			1,003,938	0	6
Present value of £76,718 re-assured with other Companies			39,585	14	6
Total			£1,782,408	12	11
LIABILITIES.			£	s.	d.
Drs.					
Interest due to proprietors			4,744	3	9
Claims and additions unpaid			26,932	12	2
Annuitants, &c. due, but unpaid			938	10	5
Present value of £2,723,513 assured by the Company			1,380,515	5	0
Present value of £2868 4s. 6d. per annum payable by the Company			34,044	16	10
Proprietors' fund			121,524	0	0
Surplus fund			213,709	4	9
Total			£1,782,408	12	11

"From the foregoing statement it will be seen, that after making allowance for every ascertained claim, and for every possible liability and contingency, there remains a gross surplus of £213,709 4s. 9d.; and of this sum I would beg to recommend that £60,676 be appropriated to the purposes of the present division, the remaining £153,039 4s. 9d. being left, with its accumulations, to go in aid of the fund for future additions or reductions of premiums, &c.

"The allotment of this portion of the surplus will entitle the proprietors to a bonus of 10 per cent., or ten shillings per share, making with the dividend now falling due, fifteen per cent., or fifteen shillings per share.

"The policy-holders, on the other hand, will get in present value, the sum of £48,536, about equivalent to a reversionary addition of £120,000 to the sums assured. The share of each of the assured in this aggregate addition will be ascertained with the utmost dispatch. But since it will require upwards of 35,000 distinct calculations to determine it, and its value under the proposed forms, some considerable time must necessarily elapse before the whole can be completed. The average addition will, however, be not far from 28 per cent. on the premiums paid since the division in 1847.

"It may, perhaps, gratify curiosity, to mention that the annual average of the principal items of account during the five years has been as follows:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
New Premiums	5,932	0	2	or	29,695	1	0
Renewal ditto	90,124	15	2	"	450,623	15	10
Interest	30,786	12	0	"	153,933	0	1
Claims	68,429	19	8	"	342,149	18	7
Surrenders	4,003	11	3	"	20,017	16	5
Expenses	5,771	0	9	"	28,855	4	1

"Also that of the assets of £738,884 17s. 11d. reported by the Auditors.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
240,708 7 4 is invested in life interests, paying per annum	13,356	17	5	or	5	11	0
233,729 11 5 is invested in mortgages ..	10,233	12	5	or	4	7	7
215,282 18 2 is invested in Government securities	6,818	12	3	or	3	3	4
12,007 1 0 is invested in reversions ..	480	5	8	or	4	0	0
37,157 0 0 at the time unproductive ..	0	0	0	or	0	0	0
738,884 17 11	30,889	7	9	or	4	3	7

"The total yielding an aggregate interest of £30,889 7s. 9d., or £4 3s. 7d. per cent. on the average.

"I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

"Your very obedient servant,

"C. JELICOE."

"Such, gentlemen, is the promising condition of the Company's affairs, as reported by your Auditors and Actuary, and most carefully and minutely verified by your Directors. They congratulate you upon it as fulfilling your previous anticipations, and amply justifying the wisdom and prudence of the step which, in 1847, you were induced to take.

"Adopting then your Actuary's recommendation, with reference to the present division (the soundness and propriety of which your Directors have fully satisfied themselves of), the bonus payable to you on this occasion will, as already stated, be at the rate of fifteen per cent., or fifteen shillings per share, (the current dividend included,) and this you will receive free of income-tax, on and after the 4th day of October next.

"As regards the portion to be distributed amongst the assured, your Directors have for some time past had under their consideration a more satisfactory mode of dividing it, and they have determined, as being more consistent with their existing regulations, and with the facilities now so generally afforded, to allow the assured to participate, after paying five annual premiums, instead of requiring the previous payment of eight as heretofore, and to give them four options instead of two only, from which to select a mode of receiving their share of the surplus. That is to say, they propose that it shall be had either in cash, in reduction of the five annual premiums next payable, in reduction of all the premiums payable thereafter, or lastly, by way of an addition to the sum assured. Your Directors further propose that a proportionate addition shall be made for the interval between any given division and the time of the decease of the lives assured, and thus by these arrangements the policy-holders will be in precisely the same position as if a valuation were made, and the surplus distributed every year, instead of quinquennially. In other words, those who are entitled to participate will begin to do so at the end of the first five years, or just before the sixth annual premium becomes due, and will then, in effect, continue to do so every year until that in which the decease of the life assured shall occur.

"Your Directors will now conclude their report, not doubting that you will find in it ample reason to be satisfied with the state of your affairs, and that the assured and the public will appreciate the solid advantages which the great wealth and stability of the Company enable it to offer them."

The Chairman said, the question now was the reception and adoption of the report; but if the proprietors wished to express any opinion upon it, it was open to them to do so. The Chair-

man, after a pause, put the adoption of the report to the meeting, which was agreed to unanimously.

Mr. Cuthbert said he found the general fund amount to £738,000, but he was anxious to know, as nearly as could be, what the gross amount was in 1847.

The Actuary said the gross amount, as nearly as he could say, was £493,000.

Mr. Cuthbert said, it must be very gratifying to every gentleman present, to hear so flattering an account as that which they had that day had from their worthy Actuary. He had elicited, from Mr. Jellicoe, that five years ago their assets were only about £493,000, whereas, since then, they had reached £738,000, a very large amount indeed for so short a period. He should be glad if the report could be printed and sent to all the proprietors, urging them at the same time to lend a hand to the good work, by which not only themselves, but their families, would be benefited.

The Chairman said that the report would be circulated immediately amongst the proprietors by the more rapid means of the newspaper press, and that the assured would also receive a copy of it.

The Chairman said that the next business was the election of a Director to fill up the vacancy caused by the lamented death of Mr. Talbot. There was only one candidate for the office, namely, Mr. T. G. Sambrooke, one of their respected Auditors, but the election must take place by ballot.

The ballot then took place, and Mr. Sambrooke was declared duly elected.

Mr. Sambrooke returned thanks.

Mr. Allen was, also without opposition, elected Auditor, in the room of Mr. Sambrooke.

Mr. Robert Thompson said, that for the last two years it had fallen to his lot to convey the thanks of the meeting to the Board for the great attention they had paid to their interests. The pleasure he had felt in doing so was doubled on the present occasion by the admirable statement of the excellent position of the Company's affairs which they had given them. He begged, therefore, to propose a vote of thanks to all the Directors, and he hoped that they might continue long to carry on the affairs of the Company with the same success.

The motion having been duly seconded and unanimously agreed to,

The Chairman acknowledged the compliment on the part of himself and his brother Directors, who, he said, were glad to possess so completely the confidence of the proprietors, as was evidenced by the business having gone off so pleasantly that day. Every member of the Board was sincerely desirous to render himself as useful as possible to the Company, and with the active co-operation of the proprietors, they hoped in a few years hence to be able to place its affairs in a more flourishing state than anything they had yet seen. Before they separated, he asked them to join in a vote of thanks to their excellent friend on his right hand—their Actuary—who was, indeed, the right hand of the Company. He was, he (the Chairman) might add, the very prince of Actuaries, and as such, and for his exertions in promoting the interests of the Company, was entitled to their best thanks.

The motion was cordially carried.

The Actuary expressed his obligations to the Chairman for the very kind manner in which mention had been made of his services. He was happy to think that the Company was faithfully and zealously served, not only by the Actuary, but by all those gentlemen who were in the office of the Company under him. He might perhaps take that opportunity of alluding to a circumstance which placed the Company very undeservedly at a disadvantage in comparison with other Companies. It was well known that the "Eagle" was originally a strictly proprietary office, and that it only admitted the assured to participate in its surplus profits at a comparatively late period. Several of the old Companies had done the same thing, but the course pursued by them had been, he believed, in every instance different from that adopted by the "Eagle." They, one and all, excluded those who were assured at the time of the change from any participation in the advantages which it was to confer. The "Eagle," on the contrary, freely admitted all who were at the time insured in the office, although of course the original contract with them was for the amount of their insurance, and nothing more. As years elapsed, these policy-holders, observing that the additions made were small in comparison with those awarded to insurances of the same date in other Companies, expressed a good deal of disappointment, forgetting that they could only participate from the date of their admission as participators, and not from that of their assurance, since it was, of course, impossible that the change could act retrospectively. He thought it necessary to mention these facts, knowing that the disappointment felt and expressed by these early members of the Society at the bonus not corresponding with their expectations, had operated to the disadvantage of the Company, whose liberality in this particular was deserving of a better recompense. The position of persons assured at that early stage, and of those now coming into the Society, was necessarily wholly different. Indeed, he believed that there was no Company in a position to offer more substantial advantages to persons effecting insurances than the "Eagle," its low rate of expenditure, or its truly honest and skilful management.

Mr. Robert Alexander Gray, a Director, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Sambrooke and Mr. Lynde, the Auditors. The manner in which they had performed their duties reflected the highest credit upon them. He had felt great satisfaction at the appointment of Mr. Sambrooke to a seat at the Board, and he had no doubt that he would prove a valuable colleague.

Mr. Sambrooke briefly returned thanks, and expressed his regret that Mr. Lynde was absent through indisposition.

The proceedings then terminated.

The Directors and Officers of the Company for the ensuing year are as follows:—

DIRECTORS.	
CHAIRMAN—Walter Anderson Peacock, Esq.	
DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN—Robert Alexander Gray, Esq.	
Charles Bishoff, Esq.	Rich. Harman Lloyd, Esq.
Thomas Boddington, Esq.	Joshua Lockwood, Esq.
Thomas Devas, Esq.	Ralph Charles Price, Esq.
Nathaniel Gould, Esq.	Thos. G. Sambrooke, Esq.
Charles T. Holcombe, Esq.	William Wybrow, Esq.
AUDITORS—J. G. Lynde, Esq., Thomas Allen, Esq.	
PHYSICIAN—Geo. Leith Roupell, M.D., F.R.S., 15, Welbeck Street.	
SURGEONS—James Saner, Esq., M.D., Finsbury Square; William Cooke, Esq., M.D., 39, Trinity Square, Tower Hill.	
ACTUARY AND SECRETARY—Charles Jellicoe, Esq.	